



Business Briefs A2

Sports A6

Three Chords and the Truth B16

FB Hornets B11

Backwater Adventures A7

Issue 979

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

# The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 19, 2023 Weekly FREE

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version Available Online!

Riekie Roncinske



By Dale Rankin

Not to jinx things but we want to thank our Winter Texan friends for leaving the cold weather in the frozen tundra of the Great White North as they rolled onto The Island this season. You couldn't ask for better weather on our little sandbar and along with the nice weather they brought with them an influx of a bumper crop of seashells on area beaches. As you can see here the beach from the South Packery Jetty to Whitecap has been prime country for shelling this week and there are few things our Winter Texan friends like more than beachcombing for seashells which is right up there with the Early Bird Specials Around The Island. While we here at the Word Factory have never actually seen an Early Bird in flight they must be very tasty because the Winter Texans will eat them every day if they can.

One of the surprises of the Winter Texan season for 2023 has been the number of license plates from points east; from Rhode Island to New Hampshire we have seen plates from states east of the Midwestern ones we are used to. Maybe it is marketing by the Corpus Christi Visitors Bureau or maybe it's just serendipity but our Island seems to be casting a wider net this year. And we want to take a moment here to encourage our Winter Texan visitors to get out there and mix with the locals because frankly we locals get tired of swapping the same old lies through the summer months and we can use an influx of new material. Stories about digging out of the snow are very popular and also the taking of selfies by Winter Texans as they pick up shells in the Texas sunshine to send to their snowbound friends up north. Sometimes it's the little things...

**In political news**

In political news this week the two State Senators from Padre Island, Port Aransas, and Flour Bluff both got bad news this week as both, who just finished up elections in November will now have to run for their normally four-year terms in only two years. In a sort of lottery Article 3, Section 3, of the Texas Constitution calls for "Senators elected after each apportionment [redistricting]" to be divided into two classes: one that will serve a four-year term and the other to serve a two-year term." That keeps Senate district elections staggered every two years. After that, senators serve four-year terms for the rest of the decade.

So on Wednesday, each of the chamber's 31 lawmakers walked to the front of the chamber and drew lots by picking an envelope that held a pill-shaped capsule which held numbers: Even numbers meant two-year terms, and odd were for four-year terms. Senator Morgan LaMantia who represents Padre and Mustang islands and who won her race by barely 500 votes after a lengthy recount in her first race for the State Senate drew and even number as did long-time Senator Chuy Hinojosa and both now have races in two years during the Presidential cycle.

**Bingo!**

The good news is that Bingo is back on The Island! See the story in this issue but be warned...never get between a bingo player and their dauber. It can get ugly. That's all for now get out there and find some seashells by the seashore and say hello

## Whitecap North Padre Island Sales Office set to open in June

### Lots in Phase I to go on sale

By Dale Rankin

As work on canals and bulkheads continues on the Whitecap North Padre Island project officials with the development company say current plans call for a sales office to be open at the site by the end of June 2023.

Arnie Seitel, Strategist for Diamond Beach Holding, LLC. said this week the first lots in Phase I of the project to go to market will be residential lots on the west side of the site. "The lots next to the homes on Dasmariñas Drive will all be long-term residential," Seitel said. "We expect to be ready to begin offering those for sale by June."

near the intersection of Commodores Drive and Compass Street and the first sales offerings will consist of about 65 residential lots. The cost of the lots has not yet been determined. "We will begin site work for the trailer in the next few weeks," he said. "We will start training the sales staff by April or May."

Seitel also said while the design of floor plans and structural elements of the houses to be built at the site are still works in progress, the decision has been made to construct houses with flat roofs to allow for rooftop decks.

Whitecap cont. on A9



A driveway was put in place this week in anticipation of the arrival of a sales trailer

## The Future of Emergency Service District under Discussion

### Fire Chief makes official buyout offer to district board



By Dale Rankin

A packed house gathered at the station of Nueces County Emergency Service District 2 (ESD #2) on Yorktown Road in Flour Bluff Tuesday night to hear an offer to absorb the eleven-member department into the Corpus Christi Fire Department. CCFD Fire Chief Robert Rocha appeared before the five-member ESD #2 board, with one member absent, and outlined a plan that if accepted by the board would end the current system of duel fire departments funded by taxpayers in the ESD #2

ESD cont. on A8

## Lake Padre Work



Work on connecting the west side of the Lake Padre site on South Padre Island Drive to State Hwy 361 on the north is underway. For more information, see Dale's Column on page 5 of this issue.

A little Island history

## Island Loses a Hero

World War II Ace George Kirk Passes away at 101

"1943 was a good year. We were 22-years old.

The Navy gave us their fastest planes and I married Genny"

By Chris Hornberger

We are sad here on Padre Island this week. Father, husband, good friend and a true hero of the greatest generation, George Kirk passed away after a heart attack. He has been a solid role model and mentor to our social group for over 30-years. He was approaching his 102rd birthday in April

George's patriotic service during WWII was pronounced. He was a Naval Flying Ace with seven combat victories, awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses and



two Navy Air Medals. He was awarded his wings at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in June 1943 and joined fighter wing VF-8 in September. Born April 27, 1921 in Moline, Illi-

nois, Kirk was attending the University of Iowa when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941 and joined the US Navy in early 1942. He earned his wings at Corpus Christi's Naval Air

History cont. on A4

## Bingo at the Beach!

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kiwanis Bingo at the Beach starts January 24

By Brent Rourk

Get you daubers ready and your bingo eyes sharpened the 12th Annual Kiwanis Bingo at the Beach starts Tuesday, January 24th at HardKnocks Sports Grill on Padre Island.

Bingo begins at 7:00 p.m. however, ticket sales begin at 6:00 p.m. Bingo players are reminded to arrive early, select their seats, and enjoy fabulous food and beverage selections offered by HardKnocks.

BINGO at the BEACH, again sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi and co-sponsored by several individuals and businesses, offers cash prizes, door prizes, and great midweek fun.

Bring your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and anybody else who wants to have fun. Profits from the Kiwanis Bingo help fund many children's causes in the Coastal Bend.

Dates for this year's bingo are January 24th, 31st, February 7th, 14th, 28th, and March 7th. Cost for the night of Bingo is a \$5.00 donation plus the cost of the Bingo cards. Daubers are sold at the door.

The Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi is seeking a few more co-sponsors who want to be a part of BINGO at the BEACH. Call John Vaughn at 361-779-0477 or Brent Rourk at 361-244-7603.



More info on page A3

By the Numbers

## Firefighting Equipment at CCFD

Corpus Christi Fire Chief Robert Rocha addressed the Board of Directors of Nueces County Emergency Services District #2 on Tuesday and listed the firefighting equipment at the stations which serve Flour Bluff, and Padre Mustang islands.

**Fire Station #17** 6869 Yorktown Blvd. Flour Bluff. Fire Engine and Ambulance

**Fire Station #4** 2338 Rodd Field Road. Fire Engine and Ladder Truck

**Fire Station #13** 1802 Waldron Road Flour Bluff. Fire Engine and Ambulance

**Fire Station #15** Commodores Drive. Ladder Truck and an Ambulance

**Fire Station #16** State Highway 361. Fire Engine

# Did Ya Hear?

By Mary Craft  
mkay512@aol.com

## Business Briefs

**Coastal Dance Club** is celebrating its first anniversary this month. Instructor Ulyana is currently enrolling students age 2 - 15 for the spring semester dance and tumbling classes. For adults there are Buti Yoga classes on Tuesday at 9 am. The dance studio is located at the back of the Mail & More Center. Call 800-2875 for more info.



**Snake Farm Pie Company** in Port A provides a variety of homemade pies for pickup. Bakery Chef Kate Low is known for her clever tasty themed pies. Pick up a Super Bowl pie for your party or for a host gift. Call 361-332-1996 to order.



**Prime Steakhouse & Whiskey Bar** is now serving Sunday Brunch 10 am - 3 pm with interesting and tasty looking menu items. Some of them are Croissant Beignets & Wings coconut glazed with coco flakes and Crispy Chicken Wings with sweet red chile sauce. We have no brunch on the Island and Black Marlin in Port A no longer has theirs so it looks like it may be worth the trip. Reservations are recommended and you can find a link on their Facebook page or call 799-5151. The restaurant is at 6326 Yorktown Blvd.



*Prime Steakhouse Brunch Short Stack of Sweet Cream & Ricotta Pancakes, Bourbon Glazed Peaches, all with Whipped Butter Maple Syrup*

**Snoopy's Pearl Oyster Bar** will reopen with an extended appetizer menu on Friday, January 27th and the full menu with specialty dishes and steaks will be available in March. The restaurant will always have about ten varieties of oysters from both the eastern and western seaboard plus blue band Gulf oysters. Owner Mitchell Kalogridis promises the Dungeness crab dish will be killer and the crawfish boil, as well. They are currently communicating with Normandy and Costa Rica Pacific side oyster sources. In May, Mitchell will be checking out sources in Italy, Portugal and Spain. Hours are 11 am - 10 pm daily and will include happy hour specials.

**The Winter Texans** have arrived so book your golf tee times early.

**Legends Sports Bar & Grill** will be opening soon in the Bluff at the former Floyd's Restaurant location.

**Brush pickup** will be January 25 - 29.

**The Dr. Mario Martinez - Internal Medicine Clinic** building has begun construction next to the Pelican Plaza. Dr. Martinez has three medical clinics in town and one in Portland. The one on the Island will not have a spa but the nurse practitioner administers Botox and fillers.



**A Washeteria** is going into a unit near Mail & More. The laundry facility will not be for public use. I assume it is for STRs sheets, towels, etc. Boring but at least you don't need to wonder what's going in there. There is still a double unit available between it and Mail & More.

**Kiwanis Bingo at the Beach** will be at Hardknocks on Tuesday, January 24th at 7 pm. It will run for six weeks until March 7th. There will be door prizes and cash prizes. Admission is \$5 plus cost of the cards.

**The Packery Flats Winter Cleanup** will be on Saturday, February 4th 9 am - noon. The cleanup area will include tidal flats and marsh habitats along two miles of Highway 361 from the Packery Channel. To volunteer you need to register yourself, your family or small group at the link on their page. You will get a t-shirt and other swag made possible by a grant from CITGO Caring for our Coast.



**The Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade** on the beach will be on Saturday, February 18th starting at 11 am until about 1 pm Remember to secure your spot early morning as the crowd for this event grows each year. The King & Queen's Ball will be held at the Wyndham Resort on the seawall on Saturday, February 11th 7 - 11 pm. For years the ball was the same day as the parade but that proved to be too exhausting.



**Rock & Rolls Sushi Lounge** is celebrating their 8th Anniversary Party on Thursday, January 26th. Call to make reservations.

**The Flour Bluff Hornets** varsity basketball teams host Carroll High School on Friday, January 20th 5 - 8 pm. They will be serving tacos, hors d'oeuvres and Margaritas. Many new artists have joined the gallery since Melissa Mitchell took it over last summer and the new items arrive weekly.

**Padre Island Art Gallery** will have this month's Sip & Shop "Let's Taco Bout Art" on Friday, January 20th 5 - 8 pm. They will be serving tacos, hors d'oeuvres and Margaritas. Many new artists have joined the gallery since Melissa Mitchell took it over last summer and the new items arrive weekly.



*PI Art Gallery champagne flutes*

## Random Stuff

I replaced my door knob a couple of years ago with a ceramic one and at the same time replaced my dead bolt. The door knob has fared much better, it still looks like new.



Friendly PSA: Now that the dog park is gaining more use, I am sending a reminder to vaccinate your pets for core vaccines (distemper and rabies) as well as for highly contagious respiratory diseases like canine influenza and "kennel cough" (bordetella, canine infectious respiratory disease complex). Any pets that meet in group settings such as parks, doggie daycares, boarding or grooming facilities are at risk. Vaccines are recommended to prevent or help minimize infection if exposed. If your dog shows signs of runny nose or eyes, sneezing, coughing, fever or lethargy, don't bring them to the park and please see your veterinarian. There have been canine influenza outbreaks throughout the country and recommendations to close down facilities and parks temporarily due to the highly contagious nature of these respiratory diseases. We are grateful for the new space for our dogs to run around and just want everyone to stay healthy! Pic of our Chase, as a puppy!

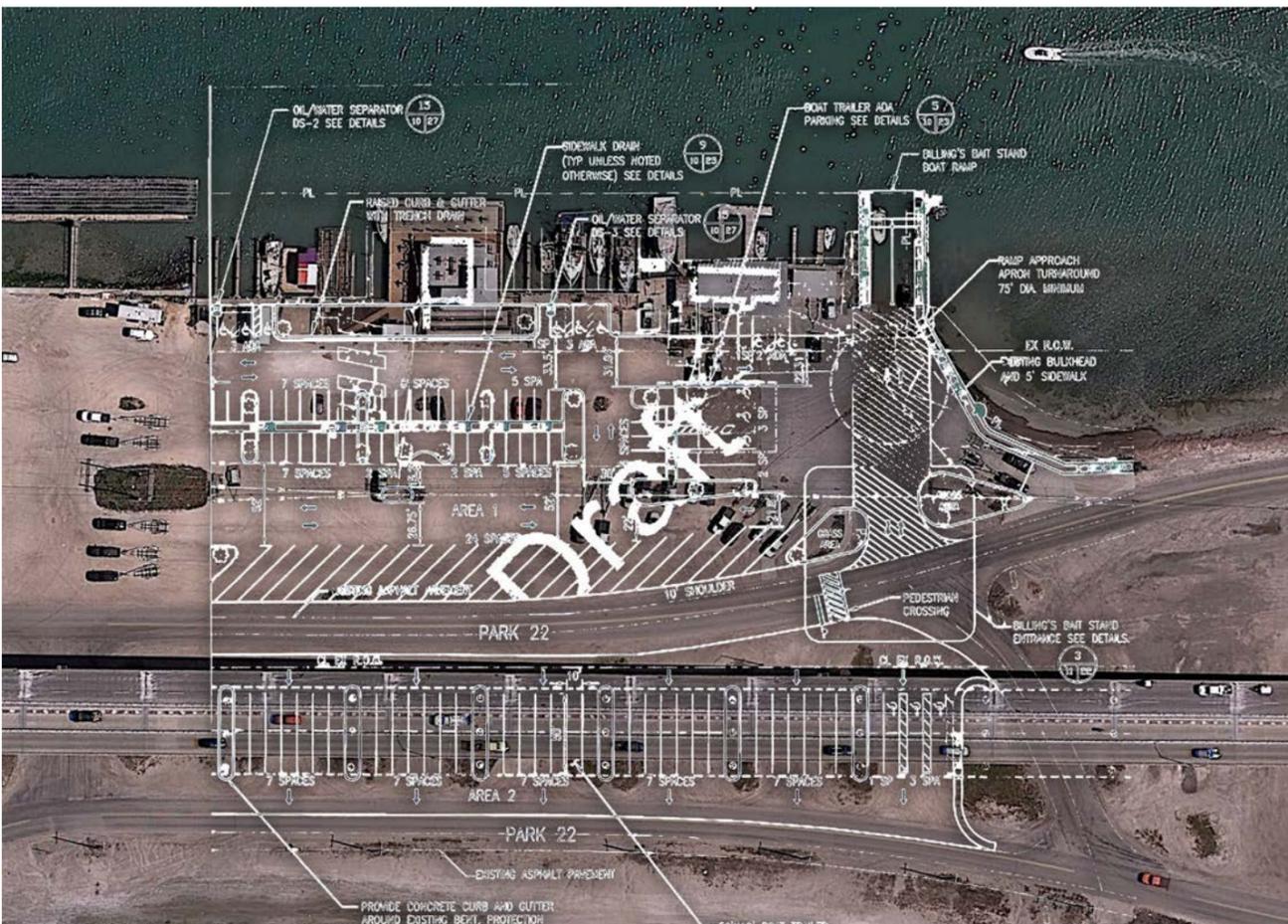


Karin Christopher

**Coastal Teak Company** has new merchandise and a store-wide 15% off sale Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



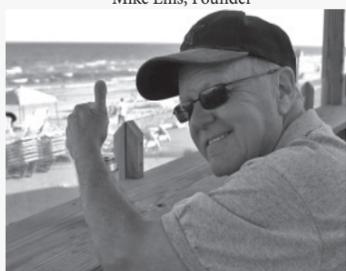
**MK Walling** was appointed to the Nueces County Parks Board. The board is composed of seven commissioners appointed by the County Judge and the term is two years. The Board is responsible for the county park system and are involved in the planning of Bob Hall Pier. MK will surely be an asset.



This overlaid drawing is from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers application by the City of Corpus Christi regarding the Billings and Clem's boat ramps that were reconstructed in 2011. The permit was approved with the drawing as shown. Funds were lacking to complete the paving portions of the project at that time and still have not been done.

# Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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Mary Craft

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# Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Sir,  
The Beach Storage Facility footprint was expanded this week and now accommodates 10 lifeguard stands on unimproved land on the west side of the main facility. This presents two problems: first, further "unapproved encroachment" by others on the park reserve and second, an incompatible use adjacent to our residential Commodores community. At the ISAC 1/10/23 it was learned the City Manager ordered the removal of the stands from the Packery location. These problems were presented 1/11/23 to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) through public input and the question was asked as to resolution path but no direction was provided. (photo attached)

Elza Cushing  
N Cabana St.

## Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return

Best Friends Animal Society this week released the findings of its statewide poll of Texas registered voters on the topic of Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) programs, which are utilized to control the outdoor cat population without unnecessary killing of the animals.

**The poll was conducted by Ascend Action, in collaboration with Griffin Communications, and revealed 80% of Texans support TNVR in their local community with 62% indicating strong support.** Republicans, female, and Hispanic voters were revealed to be among the strongest supporters. Registered voters, including these key demographics, also **overwhelmingly believe that TNVR does not constitute a form of animal cruelty or abuse (73%).**

Currently, a request for opinion is before Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on whether these essential population management programs conflict with criminal cruelty statutes regarding the unlawful abandonment of animals.

Best Friends Animal Society submitted a 65-page packet to A.G. Paxton that included a detailed legal brief, peer-reviewed studies on TNVR, and a letter from the criminal statutes' primary author in support of TNVR. Nineteen Texas municipalities, local governments and animal care, control, and sheltering organizations signed onto Best Friends' submission to A.G. Paxton.

## Disagreement with Nick

In reference to anybody who knew or knew of Elwyn "Nick" Nichols, a Flour Bluff resident, who was shot and killed nearly one year ago, the shooter, Robert Thompson, plea bargained and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. After his arrest police found his suicide note stating that he was going to kill himself because of his senseless killing of Nick because of a disagreement with Nick. Nick was a lifelong resident of Flour Bluff and worked as a mechanic during the construction of Schlitterbahn on The Island. Nick's sister, at one time, owned and operated the Island Supply Store in Flour Bluff. Nick is survived by his son, Billy Joe Nichols and his step daughter, Nicola Nichols, and ex-wife Della Hughes.

Bobby Kimbrell

Flour Bluff

Greetings from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. TWIA's Actuarial & Underwriting Committee met on January 11 and voted to recommend the TWIA Board establish \$5.244 billion as the Association's 1:100 probable maximum loss (PML) for the 2023 storm season. The 1:100 PML specifies the minimum amount of reinsurance needed to meet the Association's statutory funding obligations.

The Committee considered catastrophe model results presented by Aon, TWIA's catastrophe modeling vendor, before making its decision. The Committee voted to recommend the TWIA Board take the average of two different catastrophe models, AIR and RMS, use the model results based on long-term assumptions, and include loss adjustment expenses in determining the 1:100 PML for this year's storm season. The Committee is expected to present its recommendations to the TWIA Board when it meets on January 19 to determine the Association's statutorily required 1:100 PML for the 2023 storm season. The meeting materials and archived recording for the Committee meeting are available on our Archived Meetings page.

Aaron Taylor

Senior Legislative & External Affairs Specialist

Texas Windstorm Insurance Association

# FBISD taxes

*Editor's note: In December at a meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Directors the financial officer for the district made the statement that without additional income the district would not be able to meet the operational expenses of the district in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and subsequently the board passed a tax increase which included a combination of a property tax increase and one-time emergency funding related to winter storm Uri in February, 2021.*

*The legality of the increase was questioned by Nueces County Tax Assessor/Collector Kevin Kieschnick who delayed mailing the tax notices pending possible legal action which ultimately was not filed.*

*In January district taxpayers received refund checks from the school district as a result of a request by the board for a tax increase which was voted down by taxpayers in the November election. We ask the board for an explanation of their basis for the tax increase in the current fiscal year and their plans going forward for meeting future budgets. The following is a response to that request.*



## Flour Bluff Independent School District

2505 WALDRON ROAD, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78418 (361) 694-9205, FAX (361) 694-9809

Shirley Thornton, Board of Trustee President Flour Bluff Independent School District

### A Message from the FBISD Board President

Flour Bluff ISD recently adopted 3 disaster pennies - for one year only - raising the tax rate of .929316 to .958600 for the 2022 taxing year. The district - like all schools - can always use additional funds. This is especially true in this economic environment. Because the Board has historically listened to the taxpayers and worked to keep the tax rate one of the lowest - and usually THE lowest - in the area, we have not been able to keep up with the surrounding districts with higher tax rates who offer higher wages and better benefits. Add to that a lack of big industry (which other districts have), record inflation (which everyone feels), increased costs for diesel fuel, recent unfunded safety and security State mandates, lower ADA rates than normal (even though enrollment is once again increasing), maintenance and renovation of aging facilities, and the negative effects of HB3, and we have a "perfect storm." Therefore, all possible funding must be considered.

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the legality of using these 3 disaster pennies. To clear this up and correct what has previously been published in the Island Moon, we asked our attorney, Christine Badillo, Walsh Gallegos, Trevino Kyle and Robinson P.C. to provide a statement to the editor explaining how the district is able to use these pennies. This statement follows:

"On behalf of the Flour Bluff Independent School District, which this firm represents, the District asks for a clarification to be printed regarding your reporting of December 22, 2022. Specifically, the District wishes to clarify details regarding the adoption of its tax rate. The rate the District adopted on December 1 is .958600, which was based on the calculation of its voter approval tax rate and included the addition of three "disaster pennies" that the District, along with many other Texas school districts, was able to access pursuant to Texas Tax Code Section 26.042.

"The District's voter approval tax rate is .929316. Without the availability of the disaster pennies, the voter approval tax rate is the highest rate that the Board could have adopted without an election - or, in this case, following an unsuccessful election seeking to ratify a higher rate. Your article references the no new revenue tax rate of .864345, which is a number school districts are required to calculate for comparison purposes to show generally the approximate rate at which the District would need to tax in order to yield the same amount of property tax revenue as the prior year. In fact, the District adopted a tax rate of 1.006300 in 2021 - .0477 higher than this year's rate. We understand that appraised values have increased and that the pressures of inflation are faced not only by the District but by our families, our staff and our school community. Nevertheless, the District stands by its decision to utilize the one-time disaster pennies and has done so in full compliance with the law."

Flour Bluff ISD strives to provide an exceptional educational experience for every child enrolled in the district; it is what our parents and community members expect of us. Our students, teachers, and staff continue to excel because we provide an environment where they can reach their highest level of potential. Providing such an environment comes at a price, a price that continues to increase.

Shirley Thornton

FBISD School Board President

## Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

## Publisher

Dale Rankin

## About the Island Moon

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

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

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

## The Island Moon Newspaper

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# Where to Find The Island Moon

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Aransas Padre

Pioneer RV All Stripes Stores

Stripes on 1A Black Sheep/ Barrel

Kody's CVS

Coffee Waves Dollar General

Moby Dicks IGA Doc's Restaurant

IGA Snoopy's Pier

Treasure Island Isle Mail N More

San Juan's Restaurant Wash Tub Island Italian

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My Coastal Home

## Flour Bluff

H.E.B.

Ethyl Everly Senior Center

# Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi

presents



January 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

HardKnocks Sports Grill of Padre Island

15401 South Padre Island Drive

Cash Donation/Admission: \$5.00 plus cost of Bingo cards

**HardKnocks delicious menu is available prior to and during Bingo**

Please join us for a chance to win a prize in one of ten bingo games or a door prize. Other surprises throughout the evening.

All proceeds go to children's charitable causes.

\*\*\* Bring your friends, family and co-workers \*\*\*

For more information, call Brent (361) 244-7603 or John (361) 779-0477

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# "ANN" Opens at Rockport Little Theatre

## Runs through January 29

A no-holds-barred portrait of Ann Richards, the legendary late Governor of Texas is running at the Rockport Little Theatre through Sunday, January 29. The play brings the audience face to face with a complex, colorful and captivating character bigger than the state from which she hailed. Written and originally performed by Emmy Award-winner Holland Taylor, "ANN" takes a revealing look at the impassioned woman who enriched the lives of her followers, friends and family. A mother, wife, and American patriot who dedicated her life to helping others.

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

Reserved tickets \$20, available online or at the box office. Theater opens one hour before curtain. Theaters include beer, wine and soft drinks and snacks. The plays runs Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. with a Sunday Matinee at 3 p.m.

# Clay Expo in Rockport

## February 4-5 event features pottery fair, demonstrations and more

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Clay Expo will fire up Feb. 4-5 in downtown Rockport as more than two dozen talented clay artists from around the state gather to showcase their unique creations.

Pottery Fair hours are Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is \$10 each day with all proceeds to benefit the Aransas County Meals on Wheels Program, which delivers 150-200 fresh meals to homebound Seniors each and every day.

Organized by the Aransas County Council on Aging, the two-day event includes numerous exhibits and activities highlighted by the Bountiful Bowl Pottery Fair being held at The Rockport Conference Center (The ROCC), the new home of the event, located on the Rockport Center for the Arts (RCA) campus. The pottery fair also includes a silent auction featuring bowls designed by the participating artists. Jurors will assess the entries to award cash prizes and ribbons for the top three and Best of Show.

Expo attendees will have the chance to enjoy ceramics demonstrations and other gallery exhibits at various locations along Gullery Street, including the Saturday Night Artwalk, Contemporary Clay at RCA, showcasing the work of ceramic artist Winston Taylor, as well as a public reception held Saturday evening from 5-7 p.m. at RCA for Birds in Art, an annual, internationally curated exhibit showcasing the very best contemporary artistic interpretations of birds and related subject matter, on display Feb. 1-April 23.

# SENATE OPENS LEGISLATIVE SESSION WITH MONEY IN THE BANK

By Richard Lee

Lawmakers working on the next biennial budget will have more revenue to work with than ever before thanks to strong sales tax collections and a record-breaking budget surplus. State Comptroller Glenn Hegar laid out his biennial revenue estimate on Monday and it was another upward revision for the remaining cash balance from the current '22-'23 budget: \$32.7 billion. Sales tax collections were up an astonishing 26 percent, doubling the previous record. In all, Hegar said that legislators will have a little more than \$188 billion in discretionary general revenue as they work on budgets for state services. "The disruption of the pandemic gave way to vigorous economic growth that kept our state in a national leadership role, helped drive record revenue collections, provided an astonishing cash balance, and left us poised to fill Texas' rainy day fund to the brim for the first time since that fund was created 34 years ago," he said. The comptroller attributed the excellent fiscal situation to the state's business-oriented conservative fiscal policies.

on the positive side of the state ledger, Patrick said the Senate would stick to its conservative budgeting philosophy. "It may not be the largest surplus ever, I think California had a larger one, but they weren't very smart. They spent all the money and then they ended up in a big hole," said Patrick. "We're going to be smart."

Also this week, the members of the Senate drew lots to determine term length. Senators serve four year terms, but staggered in such a way that only a half of the chamber's seats are up for election in a given cycle. This changes after the decennial census, when all districts are up for election. In order to restore the two-year stagger, every ten years members "draw for terms". Drawing envelopes from a glass bowl next to the Secretary of the Senate's podium members learn if they are guaranteed a four year term or if they must decide whether to stand for election in just two years. It's fairly high stakes for a single roll of the dice, but the members have traditionally greeted it with good humor, with cheers for the "winners" of four year terms and light ribbing for members who are less fortunate.

It's very likely that a large portion of that surplus will go towards property tax cuts, a consistent goal of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, who sets the agenda for the Senate. Property tax relief was at the top of the list of session priorities Patrick laid out in a November press conference. In past sessions, Patrick has presided over a chamber that has increased the homestead exemption, that amount of value a homeowner is able to write off before taxes, up to \$40,000. Patrick said he'd like to see another increase in that exemption, but that there's more the state can do. "We need to do more than just the homestead exemption, whether that's a one-time dividend paid to taxpayers - that's a little difficult to do constitutionally - but we need a robust property tax cut for everyone in the state," he told reporters. Other priorities laid out by the Lt. Governor include funding for school safety, improving electric grid reliability, and continued funding for state border security efforts. Despite the numbers

In committee news, the Senate will reopen the redistricting process completed by the legislature in the October '21 special session. Pandemic induced delays pushed the release of census data back months, making it impossible to draw maps before the 87th regular session ended in June. Because the constitution requires that redistricting take place in the first regular session following the US Census, there is some concern that the maps used for the '22 elections might face some legal peril. Redistricting Committee chair and Houston Senator Joan Huffman said that, out of an abundance of caution, they are going to repeat the process, including public hearings, to ensure that the new maps meet the letter of the Texas constitution. The first of these hearings, which will permit Texans to testify virtually, are slated to begin on Wednesday, January 25th and run through Saturday, January 28th.

### History Cont. from A1



George Kirk in 2021

Station at the outset of 1943 and was assigned to Fighting Squadron Eight (VF-8) near Norfolk, Virginia. During pre-deployment training, he married Virginia (Ginny) Christofferson, a partnership that would last over 60-years.

Hill to the Pacific Theater in Mar 1944. His combat activities included multiple island warfare, the Marianas Turkey Shoot, Iwo Jima, Formosa and support of McArthur's Philippine Invasion in Oct 1944. He then returned to

"We were twenty-two years old," George said. "The Navy let us fly their fastest planes. We were the best summer of my life."

Florida in early 1945 to develop night fighting tactics for the new

Ensign Kirk and his VF-8 squadron sailed to war at the end of 1943. George and his squadron participated in key engagements in the northwest Pacific islands including the *Great Marianas Turkey Shoot*. Promoted to Lieutenant in mid-1944, George became a fighter pilot "ace," credited with seven aerial combat victories and two Navy Air Medals and two Distinguished Flying Crosses during his tour of duty.

After WWII, George began an influential civil career guiding aviation development in the Midwest for 30-years. He was the Quad Cities Airport manager from 1954-1983, along the way, becoming President and Chairman of the American Association of Airport Executives in 1976.

He then deployed on CV-11 *Intrepid* to Hawaii in Dec 1943 and later on CV-17 *Bunker*

After retirement, George and wife Genny migrated to Padre Island, Texas for a well-earned relaxed life. George was a great influence on me as a life role model. I thank him for many lessons and memories. He WILL be missed by many. Rest in Peace George.

### ISLAND STRATEGIC ACTION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the population of Port Mustang Island, Mustang Island, and Padre Island is increasing, which will cause additional traffic issues,

WHEREAS, the Island Strategic Action Committee has made a previous motion that the City of Corpus Christi develop a Mobility Plan to alleviate existing traffic issues on Padre Island

WHEREAS, the Island Strategic Action Committee has discussed and recommended in previous meetings that a second causeway or means on and off Mustang and/or Padre Island for public safety be studied and considered,

WHEREAS, the recommended Mobility Plan (and other previous and ongoing studies) have and can support the rationale for a second causeway,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ISLAND STRATEGIC ACTION COMMITTEE, that the City of Corpus Christi support the efforts of the upcoming 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, and our representatives, to move forward with efforts to fund the studies and eventual construction of a second causeway.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY VOTE ON JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 AT THE REGULAR ISLAND STRATEGIC ACTION COMMITTEE

### ISLAND STRATEGIC ACTION COMMITTEE

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 10th day of January, 2023:

Jay N Gardner	<u>aye</u>
Daniel R Brown III	<u>absent</u>
Roy D Coons	<u>aye</u>
Robert J Corbett	<u>aye</u>
Charles F Duffley	<u>aye</u>
Eric L Evans	<u>absent</u>
Meagan E Furey	<u>aye</u>
Tommy J Kurtz	<u>absent</u>
Dotson Lewis Jr.	<u>aye</u>
Michael S Pittman	<u>aye</u>
Robert B Pruski Jr.	<u>aye</u>
Melanie Salinas	<u>absent</u>
Craig Thompson	<u>aye</u>
William M Uhlarik	<u>aye</u>

ATTEST:  
  
 Daniel McGinn  
 Director of Planning

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### Senior Moments



## Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

### Reports For Military Active Duty & Veterans

#### Report 1-Veterans to Receive Free Emergency Mental Health Care

Veterans struggling with suicidal thoughts will be able to receive free emergency mental health care starting Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at any Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility or outside provider.

The new policy will apply to all veterans in mental health crisis, even if they are among the estimated 9 million former service members who are not using their VA benefits, according to the VA. The effort is part of the department's 10-year strategy to reduce suicide by veterans, who are at a significantly higher suicide risk than the general population.



McDonough VA Director

"Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve, no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a recent statement. "This expansion of care will save veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that."

There are more than 6,100 veteran suicides annually, according to the latest VA data. An estimated 17 veterans die by suicide every day.

The free treatment will include emergency suicide care, inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. The VA will also either cover or reimburse transportation costs, appointment fees and other related expenses.

Eligible veterans must have left active duty after more than 2 years of service under any separation status except a dishonorable discharge. Other eligibility is provided for former troops who served 100 days under a combat exclusion, worked with drones for victims of 100 days and veterans who were victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., said that he was thrilled the VA will begin implementing an idea that he first proposed in a bill in 2020. The measure became the foundation on which the new VA policy is based.



"This new benefit removes cost from the equation when veterans are at access life-saving care when they need it most, regardless of whether the veteran has ever enrolled in or used VA health care benefits," Takano said in a statement. "But there is more work to do. As we embark on a new year and a new Congress, I will continue to prioritize meaningful solutions to help save veterans' lives."

The VA has embarked on several initiatives over the past year to help prevent veteran suicide, including a Veteran Crisis Hotline that can be contacted through 988 or at 1-800-273-8255.

#### Report 2-Military Service Members & Veterans Get Raise In Life Insurance

In March, members will see the first Service-members' Group Life Insurance coverage increase, from \$400,000 to \$500,000, since 2005. Life insurance coverage for service members will rise for the first time in 18 years beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

The maximum coverage under the Service-members' Group Life Insurance program, which benefits designated beneficiaries, will increase from \$400,000 to \$500,000.

This is the first update to life insurance coverage for active duty members and veterans since 2005. The coverage will cost \$31 a month, a nearly 30% increase in monthly out-of-pocket contributions from service members' paychecks.



SGLI coverage is automatic at the maximum coverage amount, and all eligible service members will initially receive it unless they decline the coverage, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs update. The increase is a result of the cost-of-living adjustments approved by Congress as part of the "Supporting Families of the Fallen Act," which was signed into law by President Joe Biden on October 17, 2022.

The legislation falls more than \$100,000 short of a complete adjustment for inflation over time, however. The SGLI figure of \$400,000 from 2005 would be equivalent to about \$622,000 today, using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator, which offers data up to last month.

Service members may reduce or decline coverage using the SGLI online enrollment system starting in March and must do so before the end of that month to avoid paying the increased premium.

Reservists with part-time SGLI coverage must reduce or decline coverage using Form SGLV 8286 via their personnel office.

Military personnel also may agree to Service-members' Group Life Insurance traumatic injury protection for an additional \$1 per month. The coverage offers up to \$100,000 in short-term financial support in cases of traumatic injury.

Service members who had declined SGLI coverage previously will now automatically receive the traumatic injury policy if they do not decline the updated SGLI coverage.

Under the Veterans' Group Life Insurance, former service members have the option to continue their coverage after they leave the military for as long as they continue to pay the premiums.



VGLI coverage will not be increased automatically, the department said. Eligible veterans under the age of 60 who had maintained coverage will be able to purchase additional coverage during specified anniversary periods.

The VA also this month launched a new life insurance program for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The VALife program will provide up to \$2,000 of whole life insurance for veterans 80 or under with those disabilities. It is the first new insurance program for veterans in more than 50 years.

Veterans enrolled in the existing Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance will have the option to keep their coverage or switch to VALife, according to a VA statement

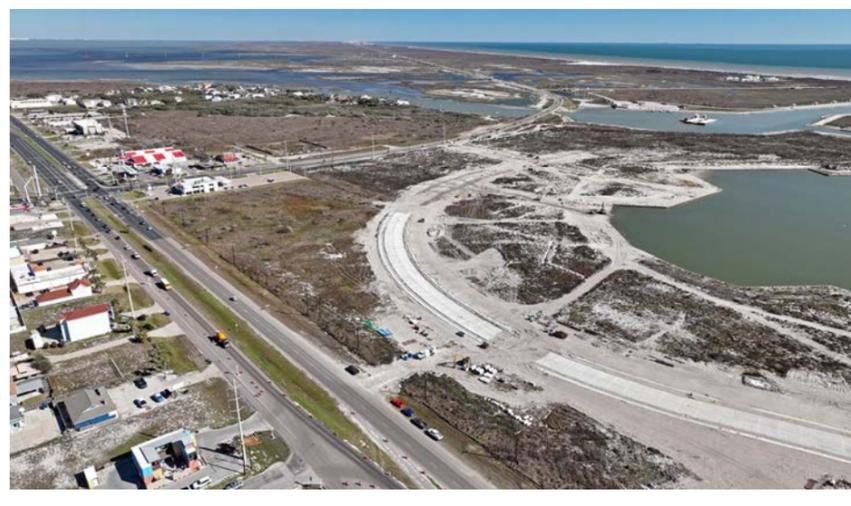


Dotson's Note: I suggest that if you have any questions regarding Veterans Activities and/or entitlements that you contact you county Veterans Service Officer. Thanks to Mo Molina, J. J. De La Cerda, Ecrida Svetlana, Shkolnikova, John Carkeet, the Veterans Administration and The Department of Defense for the facts contained in these reports, and to the VA for the photos. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at [dlewis1@stx.rr.com](mailto:dlewis1@stx.rr.com). FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, 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



There is an existential fight for the future of Corpus Christi going on around us and it is playing out in three arenas. The first shot fired was at the first meeting of the newly seated Nueces County Commissioners Court this month when they voted 6-0 to stop appointing three members of the Port of Corpus Christi Commission (the second arena). The vote is symbolic and to take effect would require the Corpus Christi City Council (the third arena) to agree and appeal to lawmakers for a change in the port authority rules for the Nueces County Navigation District No. 1. The city council is unlikely to give up its ability to appoint its three commissioners while it is locked in a struggle with the port over who will own and operate a desalination plant(s) which would supply the water needed for growth of the port industries. That is looking, I believe is at the heart of what is at stake with one group that was active in the election just past wishing to limit growth at the port by limiting the water supply while the port is looking to expand and must have water to do that.

If you take the County Commission out of the equation (they passed a worthless motion) then the question will be settled in the upcoming City Council races; races which the local League of Women Voters this week indicated they would like to change to all Single-Member races reversing a league policy in favor of the current system of five Single-Member seats with three At Large seats which allows voters across the city to vote in five races including the Mayor's race.

The latest campaign finance reports came out too late this week for me to have time to dig through them, I hope to have that next week. But what I can say about the city races just completed is that the amount of money from outside the city that was poured into races for the Corpus Christi City Council this cycle was unprecedented. The lesson learned, and transmitted to the out of town donors, is that seats on the local council can be had if you spend enough money on them and that is likely to be the case going forward. Single-Member seats are much cheaper to buy than At-Large seats and the League of Women Voters indicates they have entered the fray on the no growth side. I will have more as I have time to look through the finance reports but I sense a profound effect in city politics that will have a profound effect in the years to come.

#### Lake Padre work

For the past three or four years we have all seen work going on around Lake Padre, first excavation and building of bulkheads, and then installation of underground infrastructure, and

now streets. The aerial photos on Page 1 of this issue and the one seen here show work on a through street that will connect the entrance to the property from SPID on the west to State Highway 361 on the north. The plans drawn up for the property years ago show a marina, hotel, and residential lots in the area seen in the Page 1 photo and it appears the new work is using that footprint, but the current developer has not made his plans public.

The Lake Padre project has stayed largely under the radar as the Whitecap North Padre Island project has been the focus of most of the attention because it is more visible as we drive by but the work around Lake Padre is on the same scale and together they make up hundreds of acres of new Island development.

The photo seen here shows the area on the west side of the footprint near SPID and the Water Exchange Bridge where, based on the plans available, a cart bridge will be built over the canal that runs from the bridge to allow golf carts to move from the north end of Lake Padre all the way southward to Whitecap Boulevard and eventually to the beach. One the south end of the footprint the plans call for additional boat docks, apartments, townhomes, and a dry stack boat storage.

One unknown at this point is, and exactly what, will be built along the canal immediately next to and on both sides of the water exchange bridge other than it will be a commercial district and as things now stand it will be the closest thing to a downtown The Island has and ultimately will be the center point of Island commerce. After years of vacant land owned by developers that never actually developed it both the work on both sides of the bridge site is now about to go vertical.

There has been no announcement on when the new canals at the Whitecap site will be cut through to canalwater, but as things now stand when the canal under the new bridge opens in June the canal that runs from the bridge parallel to SPID on the west side will be opened allowing water from Lake Padre to flow all the way through to the main canal at the same time. When that happens it will be a game changer for residents with boats because it will mean boats that can get under the fourteen-foot clearance at the water exchange bridge into Lake Padre and when that happens the lake will become the center of boating activity - water skiing, etc. - on The Island.

For years we have all been saying that one of these days things are going to happen on The Island and these days they are happening right before our eyes.

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# Sports

## Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



### NFL Football Headlines

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: Football fan or not, I believe most of you Moon Monkeys have heard about the player who collapsed on the field a couple of weeks ago. I thought you might be interested in a revisit and a smattering of sports history. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Moon Mullins, Ryan Saavedra, Joe Danneman, the NFL and the Daily Wire for the facts contained in this report and to Moon Mullins for the photos.*

#### Player Collapses on Field



The Buffalo Bills' football game against the Cincinnati Bengals was suspended on a Monday night (January 2, 2023) after one of the players suffered a terrifying injury.

Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed with about six minutes left in the first quarter after he made a tackle, got up, took a step backward, and fell to the ground. The NFL said in a statement that the game was suspended over the incident.

"Hamlin received immediate medical attention on the field by team and independent medical staff and local paramedics," the NFL said. "He was then transported to a local hospital where he is in critical condition."

"I'm told Damar Hamlin has a pulse, but is not breathing on his own," FOX19 sports reporter Joe Danneman tweeted. "He is being transported to UC. Needed AED and CPR on the field."

The NFL Players Association released a statement over the incident saying that the entire community was praying for him.

#### A Tragedy Remembered

It was on October 24, 1971 when something took place on an NFL field that had never happened before and has not happened since.



A somber overcast hung over Detroit on that Sunday in October, perhaps an omen for the tragedy about to unfold.

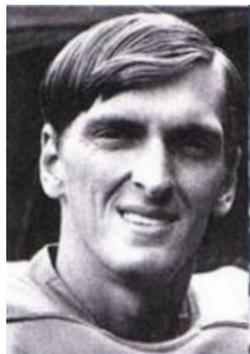
Ed Flanagan, the Lions' all-pro center, was joined in his annual dustup with linebacking great Dick Butkus of the Chicago Bears. The Lions were down by five points with less than two minutes to go. Detroit marched into Bears' territory when wide receiver Chuck Hughes snared a 32-yard pass from Greg Landry that moved the ball at the Chicago 37. Hughes had just replaced Johnstown's Larry Walton, who had twisted an ankle. Three plays later, Flanagan gasped as he watched a Landry aerial slip through the fingers of Hall of Famer Charlie Sanders in the end zone.

As he gathered his mates for fourth down, Flanagan noticed someone was missing from the huddle. He gazed downfield and saw Hughes lying face down and motionless in the muck of Tiger Stadium at the 20-yard line.

Butkus hovered over him and waved to the Detroit bench for medical assistance.

"We knew Chuck was hurt," said Ed Flanagan. "But nobody knew how bad. When they called for an ambulance, we knew it was serious."

Hughes had suffered a heart attack.



#### Chuck Hughes-Texas Western College-1965

After being tackled on the final catch of his career, a blood clot had dislodged and settled in the large artery leading to his heart, clogging blood flow. Medical personnel hammered frantically on his chest trying to revive him. His wife, Sharon, rode with him in the ambulance that took him to Henry Ford hospital. She watched his limp body turn blue before doctors told her what she already knew. An autopsy revealed Hughes suffered advanced arteriosclerosis. He was the only player ever to die on the field during an NFL game. The raucous noise of Tiger Stadium dropped to a hushed whisper. Suddenly the outcome of the game did not matter anymore. Like in a war, a fallen soldier had given his life for his comrades. It was one of the NFL's darkest days. Later that week, the entire Detroit team flew to San Antonio for the funeral. Flanagan was a pallbearer.

"I never really knew Sharon that well," Flanagan said. "I spoke with her briefly at the funeral. Neither one of us could fathom the sudden loss of such a great teammate and loving husband and father."

Today, Sharon Hughes lives alone in the Texas hinterland, halfway between Houston and San Antonio.

After a second marriage failed, she worked as an elementary school librarian and is now retired. Her son, Shane, was 2 years old when his father died. He chose not to play football. He now works as a retirement specialist for American Funds.

"Love never dies," she spoke in a crispy Texas twang. "Sometimes I look at Shane and see Chuck's crooked smile. It triggers a lot of memories."

Texas titan Bum Phillips lassoed Hughes out of Abilene High School and hauled him off to Texas Western, where he once caught 17 passes for 349 yards in one game. After being drafted by Philadelphia in 1967, he came to the Lions in 1970.

Teammates loved him. "He was a joy to be around," said defensive lineman Dan Goch. "He ran such precise routes."

Linebacker Mike Lucci, with a flair for being



#### Sharon Hughes

When Sharon was asked if she wished her husband had never played football, she drew a little pique. "Oh no," she said. "Chuck loved football. A man has to go where his heart leads him."

Today the NFL has staffed and equipped its sideline to deal with any on-field emergency. And over the past few years, it has tried to legislate layers of safety into a game rooted in violence.

But in a case of cruel irony, on that tragic day in Detroit, there was nothing on the sideline or in the rulebook that could have saved the life of Chuck Hughes.

*Dotson's Other Note:* Sharon & Chuck were my friends. They lived in El Paso while she was finishing her degree at UTEP\* during the summers of 1968 and 1969. What a shock when we heard that he had died on the football field.

\*The name of Texas Western College was changed to The University of Texas at El Paso in 1967.



By Andy Purvis

### Everything He Had



#### Shane Nelson takes down Walter Payton

Someone once said, "If success turns your head, then you were facing the wrong direction." Not this guy; he always knew where he was going. He was listed at 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighed around 233 pounds, but those stats didn't measure his heart. His ticker weighed a ton. He was a good-looking guy, a big dreamer from a small Texas town and pure as the driven snow. He was smart, tough and some said so fast he could catch a shooting star. His mom Nancy was a saint and his dad Austin was a fan of westerns and sports movies. The story goes that Shane's dad named him after the famous western movie entitled "Shane" starring Alan Ladd as the good guy and Jack Palance as the ultimate bad guy. His older brother was called "Gipper" and I will let you figure that out all by yourself, but here's a hint: Knute Rockne.

Every spring, thousands of wide-eyed kids tried out for their local high school football team. In case you haven't heard, football is king in Texas. It was no different in Mathis, Texas, a place where everybody in town had the same thing, nothing. Shane Nelson not only lettered all three years as a fullback and defensive end for the Pirates, but he also excelled as a catcher on the baseball team and was a basketball forward as well. A 12-1 record his senior year, where he once scored six touchdowns in a single game against Woodsboro, propelled him to be chosen All-South Texas Fullback. He was also named to the All-Defensive and All-Offensive Teams and was presented the 1973 Mathis High School Athlete-of-the-Year Award.

The next stop for Shane was Brenham, Texas, home of Blinn Junior College. Sure, some of the bigger schools had called. He was told he would sign a scholarship with Texas Tech, but that never materialized. Maybe his size had steered them away. Still he played and the longer he played, the more folks noticed. Shane earned a spot on the Southwest Junior College All-Conference Team at the linebacker position. By 1975, Baylor Head Coach Grant Teaff had successfully recruited Nelson for the Bears. Nelson hit the weight room, got stronger, and fell asleep each night in front of a projector watching film as his dreams got bigger in Waco, Texas.

It's hard to measure desire. Great athletes have the ability to put their bodies and minds in a place where most people refuse to go. "It's like your eyes come together as one," said Nelson. Your focus on success exceeds your desire for safety. You must be willing to give up your body to play this game. You don't end up being a linebacker by mistake. It was only a matter of time before Shane became Captain of the Bears and later a member of Baylor's All-70's Decade Team. Shane was given one other job. "Coach Teaff wanted me to recruit Mike Singleterry to come to Baylor," said Nelson. "He knew one of his team captains and dominant players could help influence Mike to sign with the Baylor Bears." The rest is history.

Two years later, Shane was invited to an open tryout camp for the Dallas Cowboys. Eighteen hundred athletes showed up but only one was offered a contract by Gil Brandt of the Cowboys, Shane Nelson. Nelson had run a 4.52 in the 40-yard dash, but incredibly, he said "No thanks." Baylor assistant coach and former Raider's quarterback, Cotton Davidson, convinced Shane to tell the Cowboys he would think about it overnight. Davidson knew that Dallas had drafted a kid named Randy White that they wanted to convert to linebacker, and Cotton felt Shane would not get a fair shake. In 1977, Nelson signed with the Buffalo Bills, as a rookie free agent.

In his first season, #59 led the Bills in tackles by setting a team record with 168 tackles, 3 sacks, 3 forced fumbles, and one fumble recovery, in a 14-game season. The Bills' players and coaches voted Nelson defensive MVP as a rookie. "That was an award I won three times in my six years at Buffalo (77, 79, 81)," said Nelson. He was also voted to the 1977 NFL's All-Rookie Team. By 1979, the NFL draft would bring nose tackle Fred Smerlas and linebacker Jim Haslet to the Bills. These two along with Nelson would form the famed "Bermuda Triangle," a place where running backs entered but never left. With the unique qualities of each of the three individuals, they were able to dominate the inside of the Bills' 3-4 defense. In 1980, the Buffalo defense was ranked No. 1 in the NFL.

He was always very competitive and set high standards for himself. Nelson could hit you like Mike Tyson hits a chin. Just ask Franco Harris, Larry Csonka, Walter Payton, or Earl Campbell. His goal was to bruise your spleen, ruin your knee, and then stop the run. Giving this guy a

helmet was like giving Billy the Kid a handgun, Tiger Woods a putter, or Calvin Borel a whip; something incredible was about to happen.

After six full seasons in the NFL, Shane Nelson retired when injuries began to catch up. At a time when the medicine was not as good, a ruptured Achilles tendon coupled with major knee surgery ended his career. "I gave everything I had," said Nelson. "My heart still wanted to play, but my body couldn't write the check to play at the standards I expected for myself. The pride in playing the game and excelling on the field was my love and passion for the game. I didn't play for a paycheck, so when I couldn't perform at my standards, it was time to walk away."

Nelson moved back to South Texas after football and created "Huddle for Success," a company that specializes in helping large companies set up strategic plans on how to accomplish their goals, both personal and business.

There is no doubt that God moves people in and out of our lives. I met Shane through a friend named Mondo Camina. The only thing we had in common was our love for football, but that was enough. Two guys from different places became instant friends. Shane had a weekly sports talk radio show at the time and had guest hosts like local sportscaster Dan McReynolds and Camina. Eventually he asked me to join him and excited, I said "Yes." This was my chance to live my childhood dreams through his experiences. "Shane & Andy's Insider Sports" debuted in January of 1993. Along the way we took our show out into the public with the help of local businesses like Andrews Distributing, Pizza Hut, Special Olympics, and United Way. We were also able to bring some of the best of the best from the sports world to the Corpus Christi air waves.

One October, I followed Shane and his family back to Blinn. He was being inducted into the Junior College Football Hall of Fame. I was proud to sit with his parents and his wife Shannon and kids.

My dad used to tell me that the most important number in our life is not how many years you have lived but how many true friends you have acquired. Shane Nelson is my friend. He gave me my start in radio and expanded my horizons in regards to writing. He was there at my request at business meetings to inspire my employees and never asked for a penny. He signed autographs at both of my book-signing events. We have laughed until we cried and shared our sorrow for friends and family we have lost.

The award-winning NFL Films became part of Americana under the leadership of the late Steve Sabol. Through Sabol's vision, and his love for music, film, and football, he created the lasting images of this great game. He also used "The Voice" of NFL Films, John Facenda to narrate these specials. That's how Shane got the nickname "Dr. No." Facenda stated with Nelson at linebacker there was "No hole, no gain." He may be the NFL's Dr. No but to me and every other person, he has always said "Yes."

Andy Purvis

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# The Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

We're going to go completely random this week so hang on. I think I finally solved the flies in the trash bin saga. I had been hosting down at the cabin and brought back a fair amount of kitchen trash that was festering with the nice warm weather we have been having. As I went to take the bins to the curb last Friday morning, I noticed that there were a lot of flies coming out around the lid area. I watched it for a minute, and then opened the lid, and sure enough, there are 5 holes drilled into the edge of the can to where when even the lid is closed, flies can still get in under the "upper lift pocket" and into the can. Aha!

So, I'm running an experiment for you loyal readers. I placed a piece of duct tape on the seal over the holes to see if that will keep the flies out. The rest of the seal looked pretty good all around, except that I did have a nick/burr in the front edge that was keeping the lid from going all the way down. I had multiple issues. I don't think that the tape will cause a massive buildup of methane gas with an explosion risk in the week between taking the trash out. It's still not a perfect hermetic seal. I will monitor the progress and report back to y'all from time to time.

Another exciting topic I want to visit with you all about is dryer lint. Yup, dryer lint. Most of us weekend warriors do our own laundry, and dryer lint is a pain to deal with. You have to empty the dryer screen and keep up with yearly changing or cleaning of the dryer vent hose to prevent having to call the ESD#2 or CCFD because the laundry room is on fire. Dryer lint is highly flammable, and a wad of it can be used to start a fire quickly due to the increased surface area of the material.

Another handy use for dryer lint is in your bird nest boxes that you all are constructing in your garage in your spare time before nesting season. Ha! (bird nesting boxes are also commercially available). Nesting boxes are more likely to be used by birds if there is already a little material in the bottom to start with. This could be a pinch of straw, some small thin twigs, and yes, a wad of dryer lint. I use an old vitamin bottle on top of my dryer to collect the lint to stuff in the nesting boxes. I suppose you could use belly button lint, but that's gross. The dang golden fronted woodpeckers got into one of my nesting boxes last year and destroyed the opening in their curiosity. The boxes are too small for them to use as a nest, but they just can't help tearing it up just to look inside, ruining the box. They just don't have



Jay's Homemade Birdhouse

anything better to do, like juvenile delinquents. And they will open it up within an hour or two, so by the time you catch them, it's too late. You can just get another piece of cedar, drill another inch and a quarter holes in it, and screw it to the one they killed. Roadkill Willie tried some aluminum can cut out to armor one of his, with varied success.

We heard from our friend Ashley over at the CCA Marine Development Center/Hatchery in Flour Bluff, and they are really dialing in the flounder. They have all of their hatching tank's teaming with little flounder larvae with one of their biggest hatches to date. She said that they have released 55,340 post-metamorphic flounder since December and still have a few months to go, which is double from last year. Awesome! While we have experienced a pretty good flounder harvest this past season, the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) fishery surveys show that there is a lack of juvenile flounder in the system, and we will hit a wall in the next couple of years without the hatchlings. Also, TPWD is starting a new program to do dock surveys for flounder harvest at night, and will likely find out that a lot more flounders are being harvested than they are counting. Stay tuned.

Ok folks, I've got to get back to the grindstone here. The weather looks like we escape another freeze for yet another week. I moved my plumeria back outside and they are popping with new growth already. My esperanzas look horrible though. Drop me a line at [tarpon-chaser@mail.com](mailto:tarpon-chaser@mail.com) and I'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Trash Can Shenanigans



## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah  
Farah's Fishing Adventures



When hunting the largest and most mature gamefish, I always use natural color jig heads and soft plastics. A Baffin Bay Giant from FARAH'S Backwater.

Now is the best time for using and gaining confidence with using soft plastic lures. The winter season pulls bait fish towards deep water winter hides out offshore and into the deep waters of Corpus Christi Bay, leaving less food sources here in the Laguna Madre and back bays. This allows more competition for food. Fish trying to conserve energy during the winter months will take advantage of a target close by rather than to use energy to hunt food down. Cooler water brings clear water conditions as well and allows your lures to be seen as well as felt. More than anything it's a great time of year for us to relax on the water. It's not boiling hot so gamefish are willing to feed during the day more often and it is much more comfortable for us as anglers!

Cruising down the aisle at the local tackle store can be intimidating, and very expensive. Making choices on lures and components that work, and that you can easily have confidence in is important. Choose soft plastic baits that look similar to natural baitfish body patterns, they will be accepted as the real thing more often than baits designed to catch anglers rather than fish. Mature predators can tell the difference from various baitfish, even without seeing them. Identifying their prey by vibration and swim patterns, then moving into posi-

tion and striking with precision. A bait that has oversized paddle tails or extreme features may work sometimes but more often my largest fish, and most productive sessions come from natural designs and sized soft plastics.

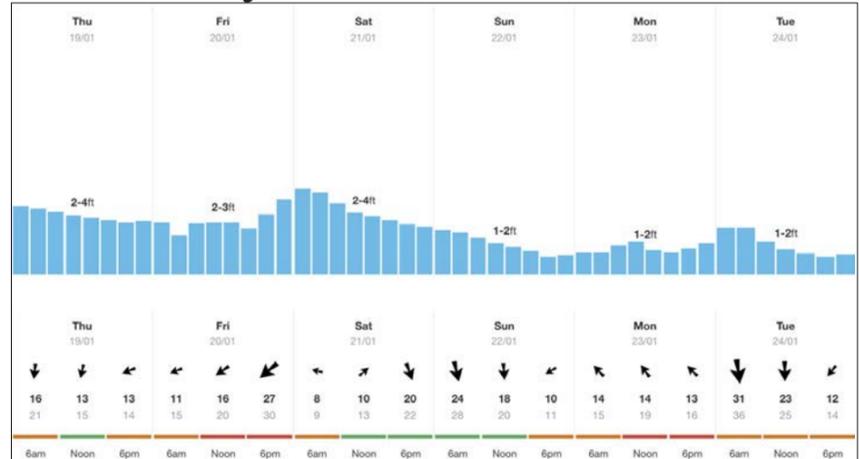
Color is another key ingredient in productivity and angler confidence. I vary between darks, bright, and natural colors. At dawn a bright color bait has been working, better yet a natural color bait with a bright tail. As the sun climbs in the sky a dark colored bait has shown up best against a bright sunlit surface. My favorite colors and brands this winter have been the DOWN SOUTH LURES SUOER MODEL in Purple Reign, Red Shad, and Color X, and Bone DIMOND. These four colors give you the best versions of that color variance. The chartreuse tail of so many soft plastics are mimicking a natural effect caused by the luminescent glow of phosphorus in the water. This is a micro organism that glows when disturbed, lighting up the water around your feet, behind the boat, and even by the swishing of the tail of a baitfish. The tails of baitfish glow at night as they swim through the water. For years I have experimented with colored jig heads as well. I have had a passionate distaste for bright colored jig heads. Just from experience I've found that I can catch fish on them but it's defiantly slower action than with natural colored jig head colors. Recently this last year a few Old Salts that chase redfish all the time pulled up with all of their rods rigged with chartreuse jig heads. I laughed at them and made a Wise crack. They laughed back as they pulled their limit of redfish out of their cooler. After a few key questions, they taught me a good lesson. They admitted that trout really do not like them much but redfish will strike those most of the time. "They feed with their nose down and feel the bait coming by. When they bolt up out of the grass they are looking frantically for their target. The bright head is an easy target. One thing you don't want to do is use a chartreuse jig head on a soft plastic that already has a chartreuse tail. Two brights make a wrong!" Those words of Wisdom have found a place in my tackle box for those dam chartreuse jig heads!

Pick up the phone and give me a call or text. You call and tell me you need a boost this year to find YOUR DAY on the water and I'll gladly give you a \$100 discount on all Jan and Feb trips. We are blessed to have our lives rolling on the Island in paradise, don't forget you're surrounded by water. Go fish Capt Joey Farah 361-442-8145



A nice Laguna Madre Redfish caught on a bright Chartreuse Jig head.

## Packery Channel Surf Forecast



## Tides of the Week

19 Jan Thu ↗	20 Jan Fri ↗	21 Jan Sat ↗	22 Jan Sun ↗	23 Jan Mon ↗	24 Jan Tue ↗	25 Jan Wed ↗	26 Jan Thu ↗
4:12PM 1.8ft	5:01PM 1.8ft	5:47PM 1.74ft	6:25PM 1.57ft	6:48PM 1.35ft	2:01AM 1.12ft	4:01AM 0.98ft	5:52AM 0.89ft
6:06AM -1.12ft	7:04AM -1.28ft	8:01AM -1.31ft	8:58AM -1.25ft	9:54AM -1.05ft	6:55PM 1.12ft	6:54PM 0.89ft	6:50PM 0.75ft
7:20AM 5:59PM	7:19AM 6:00PM	7:19AM 6:00PM	7:19AM 6:01PM	7:19AM 6:02PM	7:18AM 6:03PM	7:18AM 6:04PM	7:18AM 6:04PM
3:35PM 5:14AM	4:44PM 6:22AM	5:57PM 7:24AM	7:11PM 8:17AM	8:22PM 9:03AM	9:28PM 9:42AM	10:32PM 10:18AM	11:32PM 10:50AM



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Ryan T Rogers, MD

## Nature Notes

### Endemism

By Adam Trujillo

When researching species, either floral or faunal, you can look at a map and find where the particular species resides. Some species have wide ranges of occurrence or winter and summer in different locations. Then there are some species that call only a single geographic place home, whether that home is a single mountain range, an island, or one country in Europe. These are known as endemic species.

Some common examples of endemic animal species include the polar bear, which naturally inhabit the frozen areas of the arctic North Pole, and the lemurs of Madagascar. It's important to note that I said "naturally" inhabit, so seeing a polar bear at the San Diego Zoo does not count as the polar bear's range extending into that area.

In the bird world, the Island Scrub-Jay is found only on the island of Santa Cruz off the Southern California coast. The Florida Scrub-Jay can be found only in Florida. While the Island Scrub-Jay and Florida Scrub-Jay are close in appearance to their cousin the California Scrub Jay, they inhabit different areas. The California Scrub-Jay can extend up into Mexico, Oregon and Washington, hence it is not an endemic species.

There are tons of examples of other species being endemic to an area. But there are only 15 species of birds endemic to the continental United States, including both of these scrub jays.

Endemic species face certain challenges given that they inhabit only one area. First, because they live in only a small, specific area, certain physical characteristics may develop that make them only suitable for that one area. For instance, a polar bear needs a big layer of fat and fur to survive in the freezing Arctic conditions. If the polar bears were to be introduced farther South, or if the North Pole gets much warmer, the heavy fur and fat might be detrimental to the bear.

Secondly, these species often have small population sizes, or few separate populations. This means that their gene pool is already small, and any decrease in their numbers could have a huge effect. Third, extinction threats are highest amongst endemic species due to their limited range and reliance on the very



*Florida Scrub Jays are one of the few birds endemic to the U.S.*

Phot Credit :USFWS

specific resources found there. Once those resources are depleted, those species face higher extinction risks.

It's for these reasons that conservation efforts are being made to protect many endemic species. Some threats, like natural disasters, are out of our control, but reducing climate change conditions, poaching, and habitat destruction are all ways we can help ensure these species can live on. Since there are only 15 species of birds that are endemic to the United States, we want to make sure these species continue on for future generations to see.



## Mini Mothras, Begone!

By Pastor Kris Bair

The horror began one moth at a time, gradually building to a crescendo.

Yes, we have a moth invasion at our house.

Unlike the monster Mothra, these moths seem pretty docile. They perch on the ceiling. They flap around, vaguely looking for a place to land. They collect under the air purifier, which has probably sucked them in to a dusty death.

You know the type—these are smaller than summer's Miller moths, which I have battled for years (Millers look harmless, but their larvae are deadly cutworms).

Like the Millers, our moths are dusty, and a grey-brown color, but long and slender, where the Millers, with their wings spread, are chunkier.

And unlike the Millers, these seem not overly attracted to light.

One evening, I happened to look up at the ceiling in the living room—between touchdowns in a play-off game—and I noticed creepy, light-green things. Not large, but wriggling.

The gentle moths had been engaging in moth reproduction, evidently on our ceiling.

The ever-intrepid GP (Great Provider, my husband), a botanist and farmer with an inquiring mind, got out the stepladder and his magnifying glass.

Yep, they were small, three-quarter inch larvae, wandering vaguely here and there, desperately seeking sustenance (as opposed to Susan) with, I might add, no luck.

The dozen or so larvae we found over the next few days met a quick and violent end, but the moth population continued to burgeon.

We had never seen these moths before—or at least noticed them in the wild.

As soon as we realized we had a problem, I checked my pantry, where some years ago I had had to tear everything apart to eradicate some nasty Indian meal moths.

Not only does the GP not close cabinet doors, he doesn't get lids tightly on the flour containers, and presto! Magic meal moths.

THAT was a project I had no desire to repeat, so I was relieved to see no signs of moth invasion in my bread-making supplies.

As the moth population continued to expand, we realized they seemed to be centered in one spot next to the GP's recliner—the box of walnuts.

Having read somewhere (probably Google) that walnuts were excellent for a

diabetic's diet, he had purchased 25 pounds of them from Nuts.com and placed the box where he could easily reach in and snack as he watched free movies and sports.

Could the cardboard in the box have been harboring moths just waiting to hatch?

After spending more time on Google, and then capturing a moth cleanly enough to examine closely, he declared that they were, indeed, coming from the walnuts.

Inspecting several of the walnuts themselves, he found tiny larvae hatching from the shells.

"Out with the walnuts," I said firmly. "Now!" This did not solve the problem, but probably alleviated it.

Desperate to find a welcoming place to lay their eggs, moths now circulate through the entire house, fluttering here and there, including around my head at bedtime.

Attempted moth control includes vacuuming them from their resting spots on the ceiling and box valances. This works pretty well, except you have to remember to cover the end of the hose with an old sock so they don't get back out.

I took great delight in nuking one that made its way into the microwave as I removed my lunch the other day.

We have scoured the bookshelves near the GP's recliner, and lo and behold! The GP's binder of High-yield Investment newsletters appears to yield not dollars, but moths—apparently laying eggs.

The investment that keeps on giving is now gone—moths and all consigned to the recycle bin.

Appropriately enough, the best moth trap has proven to be a glass of pineapple-flavored wine which proved unpalatable for humans (and was left to sit on the counter overnight), but irresistible to moths. It yielded 10 dead moths this morning.

I immediately got the bottle out of the frig so it could warm up, and we'll be placing glasses of it around the house.

Turns out its cheaper than bug bombs.

Sigh. Now to deal with the happy rodent the cat brought in. This one is fond of grapefruit!

The congregation at Island Presbyterian Church, Fortuna Bay and Gypsy, may be a little nutty-- but we won't bug you! Come see for yourself—worship at 10 a.m. each Sunday, or catch us on Livestream or Zoom from our Facebook or web page links.



### Father Gobies Know Best

Many species of egg-laying animals decide when it's time for their offspring to leave the nest, but a little fish known as the neon goby takes that a step further. They decide when their young will even hatch from their eggs. Leaving their eggs is a precarious time for any animal because the new hatchlings are at their most vulnerable. Typically, the timing of hatching depends on the embryo or on external environmental cues, such as temperature. But for neon gobies, fathers seem to know the best time to introduce their little ones to the world.



*A male neon goby tending eggs in its nest in a laboratory. He prepares his offspring for the world by regulating the timing of hatch. When the time comes, he will pick them up in his mouth and expel them from the nest. Credit: John Majoris.*

When male gobies decide it's time for their young to hatch, they remove the eggs from the nest with their mouth, swim to the opening of the sponge where they live, and then spit them out at the sponge's entrance. It's not clear how the males know the conditions are right for hatching, but in a laboratory experiment, all the male gobies chose to spit out their eggs from their home sponge at sunrise on the seventh day of embryonic development.

Waiting for dad to make the call appears to benefit the young gobies' chances of survival. The gobies who hatch when dad spits them out tend to be larger and more developed — and therefore better equipped to find food, avoid predators and navigate the seas — than gobies that hatch on their own. In fact, neon gobies tend to be underdeveloped and hatch up to 50% earlier when their parents aren't around. The behavior demonstrates one of the various ways that some reef fish can increase their offspring's chances of survival from their first day of life.



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### ESD from A1

district which covers Flour Bluff and Padre Island.

"There is a redundancy of fire services that you are paying taxes for," Rocha said. "What we have heard from people in Flour Bluff and on Padre Island is they are tired of paying for two, redundant fire departments. The ESD #2 right now does nothing but support the Corpus Christi Fire Department on calls. We want to absorb ESD #2 and its employees into the Corpus Christi Fire Department."

Board members did not address Rocha's proposal however several speakers rose in opposition of the city buyout citing the long history of ESD #2 in the community and concern from current ESD #2 employees about whether their seniority with ESD #2 would be transferred to CCFD, and whether ESD #2 is needed to fill "gaps" in coverage by CCFD.

Rocha told the group there are currently five CCFD fire stations which cover the area inside the ESD #2 boundaries. He told the Island Strategic Action Committee in November that if ESD #2 is combined with CCFD he would transfer brush currently stationed at the ESD #2 facility in Flour Bluff to stations on Padre Island which currently do not have brush trucks on site.

Rocha said ESD #2 currently has eleven employees which include seven line personnel which would be hired by CCFD and trained as Emergency Medical Technicians through the city's fire academy.

"All of our firefighters are dual trained as EMTs," Rocha said, "because 75 percent of our calls are medical."

Two clerical employees would be hired in the CCFD headquarters and the chief and assistant chief at ESD #2 would be hired to work through the transition to CCFD. He said the chief and assistant chief at ESD #2 cannot be hired for management positions at the city fire department due to the city's collective bargaining agreement.

ESD #2 is chartered under state law which give it taxing authority and under current state law the City of Corpus Christi cannot unilaterally disband the organization, the buyout offer would have to be approved by the five-member ESD #2 Board of Directors which is appointed by the Nueces County Commissioners Court. A similar offer was made by the city in early 2022 and was rejected in the form of a letter to the city from ESD #2 Chief Dale Scott. A 2020 audit of ESD #2 showed property tax income of \$1,079,348 and \$48,948 in operating revenue. Its 2023 budget is \$1.4 million with about 65% of the funds coming from Island taxpayers. Rocha said the average home cost in Flour Bluff is \$292,500 meaning the homeowner pays \$85.79 per year in tax to ESD #2. On Padre Island Rocha said the average home cost is \$477,500 and each household pays \$130 per year in tax to ESD #2.

A proposal was put before voters in the district in November 2021 that would have increased the tax for ESD #2 from the current three cents per \$100 of taxable value to 4.5 cents, a 50% increase, however it was voted down with 568 votes in favor and 1261 against.

Rocha said if the buyout is accepted the equipment housed at the ESD #2 station in Flour Bluff, along with the building and land,



would be purchased by the City of Corpus Christi including a boat and trucks for fighting brush fires and would be reassigned to city fire stations #15 and #16 located on Padre and Mustang islands.

"We have six stations in proximity to Padre Island," Rocha said, "but we see the value in having another station near the waterline in Flour Bluff. We also might be able to use the ESD #2 building."

### Board appointments

Nueces County Commissioners were scheduled to appoint three members to the five-member ESD #2 board on Tuesday, however, the appointments were delayed until at least February 8 at the request of County Commissioner Brent Chesney who asked the Nueces County Attorney's Office for information on the process for holding an election to allow voters in the district to decide its future. We include the applicable state law in this issue. Seven people have applied for the three open seats on the five-member board which officially expired in December, those include the three current members of the board along with four applicants who have spoken in favor of accepting the city's offer to absorb the department into CCFD. Under the normal procedures used the County Commission the County Judge and the three other members of the court will likely follow Chesney's recommendation for filling the seats.

The future of Emergency Service Districts across the state is expected to be discussed in the session of the state legislature now meeting in Austin. Several cities across the state are seeking ways to dissolve or absorb the districts whose coverage area, like that of ESD #2, have been annexed into the limits of expanding cities. Rocha said Tuesday Nueces County currently has six Emergency Service Districts, and the coverage area of three of those districts is entirely in the Corpus Christi City Limits. Rocha also said ESD units are not dispatched by the city's 911 system.

State law currently give cities with a population of 500,000 or more the unilateral right to dissolve ESD that have been annexed into incorporated city territory, however, the population of Corpus Christi does not meet that level which has led to the buyout offer from the City of Corpus Christi. There is pressure on the State Legislature from cities in the Metroplex area between Dallas and Fort Worth to reduce that population number. If that measure is approved by lawmakers in the current session the new law would take effect in September, 2023 and would likely free up the city to act unilaterally.



Somewhere in the gulf headed to the Caribbean!! Cruise ship Adventure of the Seas. Jan Jones birthday celebration! Karen Rossi



Jimmy Pena celebrated his birthday in Cancun with his wife Sarah along side with the Island Moon



Islanders enjoying the fine January weather we are having. Oh, and they brought their moms along. Photo by Mary Craft



Mike, Michelle and Jace Thompson with Tripp, Tammy and Kaitlin Howse took the Island Moon to Durango, CO. Blessed time with amazing snowboard conditions.



Flour Bluff Junior High student and member of the Flour Bluff Padre Island 4H, Prax Morgan, had a great NCJLS commercial heifer show.

Whitecap cont. from A1

"We have been taking a look at the vistas from the heights of the rooftops," he said, "and it makes sense to use that space. From that height you can see water in two directions." He said developers are currently speaking to a small group of hotel operators for the hotel planned near the Compass-Commodores intersection.

"We are going to build a full-service hotel that the full-time residents will have access to," Seitel said. "He said longer term plans call for a small marina and yacht club on the canal near the Water Exchange Bridge now nearing completion on SPID. Both would be on eight acres of land bordering the new canal on land purchased by Diamond Beach Holdings from Axys Capital in 2022.



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Flour Bluff Hornet basketball is in full swing and they host Carroll High School on Friday, January 20th. The girls play at 5:30 pm and the boys at 7:30 pm. Tickets are sold at the door. Photos courtesy of the Flour Bluff Athletic Sports Information team.



Flour Bluff Hornets JV team.

Flour Bluff Sports Information team.



Pelicans By Lu Ann Kingsbury



Thursday beach. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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# Pseudo-Japanese Salads

By Chris Jordan

There are four salads commonly found on the menus of Japanese restaurants in America. They are all delicious even if not all authentically *Japanais*. It's hard to know without a trip to Japan or consultation with an expert so I called my pal Sushi Dave.

**Sunomono** means "vinegared thing" and could be any number of dishes that almost exclusively feature otherwise fresh vegetables. While some versions may use lemon juice instead, the acid is most commonly rice wine vinegar. The common incarnation at a Japanese restaurant is a tangy salad made with thin slices of small, almost seedless cucumbers. Soy sauce adds umami and salt, while the rice vinegar's acid is balanced with a little bit of sugar. Sometimes seaweed and even shellfish are added. The dish is almost always garnished with sesame seeds. Sushi Dave says: authentic.

## Cucumber Sunomono

Serves up to eight  
Ready in 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 4-5 Japanese cucumbers (to yield 8 ozs, sliced)
- 1/4 tsp salt (not iodized)
- 3 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp white soy sauce (regular soy sauce may be substituted)
- 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds (black or white)

### Preparation:

Slice the cucumbers as thinly as possible. Best results are obtained with a mandoline or the thinnest slicing blade in a food processor. Place cucumber slices in a medium-sized non-metallic mixing bowl. Stir in salt. Let sit for ten minutes, then squeeze out liquid. In a small mixing bowl, combine remaining ingredients and whisk until sugar dissolves. Toss liquid mixture with cucumber slices.

**Ginger-carrot dressing** on not much more than lettuce is commonly the house salad at Japanese restaurants — especially hibachi joints or steakhouses. This dressing's tang and complexity are rendered from a relatively simple recipe. Don't overthink it: just drizzle some over small chunks of iceberg lettuce and shaved daikon radish. Sushi Dave says: American.

## Ginger-carrot Dressing

Serves up to eight  
Ready in 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 8 ozs baby carrots
- 1 oz fresh ginger, peeled and chopped (about 1/4 cup)
- 1 oz shallot, chopped (about 1/4 cup)
- 3 TBSP rice vinegar
- 1 TBSP sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt (not iodized)
- 1 TBSP soy sauce
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup neutral cooking oil

### Preparation:

Place all ingredients except oil in food processor, pulse until smooth. With food processor running, drizzle oil in.

**Kaiso salad** is one of those things you may have to get your head around over the course of several encounters. Upon first sampling these marine vegetables, you may feel like you have just dipped them out of an aquarium. Please persist though, it's worth it. Best versions of this dish include as many as half a dozen different types of leafy seaweed: green, red, white, blue and even clear. There is not one universally common dressing for a kaiso salad, but it is most often bathed in some kind of vinaigrette. You can buy a dehydrated kaiso salad seaweed mix and reconstitute it according to the directions on the package. Miso vinaigrette works great for a dressing. Sushi Dave says: authentic (not sure about the dressing, that's my doing).

## Miso Vinaigrette

Serves up to eight  
Ready in 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 1 TBSP white miso paste
- 3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

### Preparation:

Place vinegar and miso in food processor, pulse until smooth. With food processor running, drizzle oil in.

**Goma wakame** is *the* seaweed salad and will be found on every single damned Japanese restaurant's menu — and for good reason: it's delicious. Want in on a couple dirty little restaurant secrets? Of course you do! They don't make this from scratch. Wakame salad comes prepackaged. The big producer in The States is Azuma Foods International. They process their wakame salad in California from Korean seaweed. This style of salad is NOT a thing in Japan. But don't let either fact keep you from ordering the wakame salad. It is nonetheless a great dish made with genuine ingredients. Even better if you make it yourself and you can add *kikurage* (wood ear mushroom) or squid if you like. Sushi Dave says: American (and European for whatever that's worth).

## Wakame Salad

Serves up to eight  
Ready in 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 1 TBSP lemon juice
- 1 TBSP lime juice
- 1 TBSP orange juice
- 2 TBSP fish sauce
- 2 TBSP white soy sauce
- 2 TBSP rice vinegar
- 2 TBSP mirin
- 2 TBSP sesame oil
- 1 TBSP *sambal olek* (chile garlic sauce)
- 1 oz of ginger, chopped
- 1 tsp MSG
- 2 cups wakame stem (can often be found salted in a 12 oz pack) prepared according to instructions on package), squeeze out excess liquid
- 2 cups wakame leaf (about 1/2 cup dried seaweed) prepared according to instructions on package, squeeze out excess liquid
- 1/2 cup scallion greens, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup cilantro, finely chopped
- 2 TBSP toasted white sesame seeds

### Preparation:

Place all liquid ingredients plus sambal, ginger and MSG in food processor, process until smooth. Pulse both types seaweed separately in clean food processor until reduced into smaller pieces. Toss liquid mixture with all remaining ingredients.

Questions or comments? theportaransascookbook@gmail.com

# Full Transparency and Disclosure

PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



## News you can Use

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

sticker to be placed in your vehicle. There will be no sticker for a boat trailer. The new policy will begin in March.

Special Board Meeting- On Thursday, January 12, 2023, the Board held a special meeting. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Treasurer Ray Singleton resigned as Treasurer. Subsequently, Frank Stover was unanimously elected Treasurer by the Board. Frank has years of financial experience and is a CPA.

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

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

Marvin Jones, PIPOA President

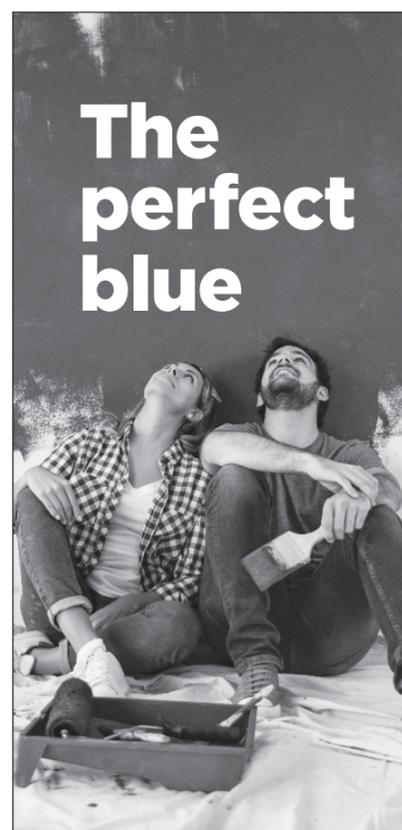
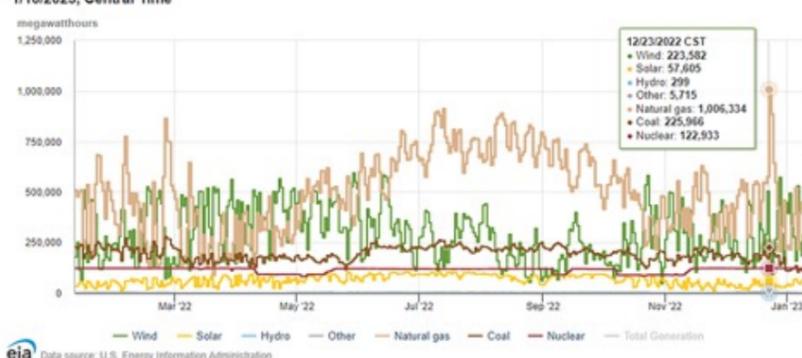
Boat Ramps- There is a new boat ramp sticker policy. The new policy requires only one

# Numbers Show Natural Gas Supply in Texas Held up During Winter Storm Elliott

The RRC's commitment to ensure the resilience of natural gas infrastructure during cold weather was tested last month during Winter Storm Elliott with sub-freezing temperatures that lasted several days during the Christmas weekend. The numbers are in and show that there was ample natural gas supply to help the state's electricity supply chain and keep Texans safe.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration analysis below shows the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) energy mixes for electricity generation in the state for the past year. As the chart reflects, natural gas fired electric generation reached the highest **peak for the entirety of 2022** on December 23 during Winter Storm Elliott, surpassing that of the peak days last summer

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) electricity generation by energy source 1/10/2022 – 1/10/2023, Central Time



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# Sudoku

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

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

## Knuckle-Cracker

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

## Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

## Brain-Buster

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

# Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18						19				
20				21						22				
23			24			25	26							
			27		28	29		30			31	32	33	34
35	36	37			38		39			40				
41				42						43				
44						45						46		
47					48			49		50				
					51			52		53		54	55	56
57	58	59	60				61	62	63			64		
65							66					67		
68							69					70		
71							72					73		

- Across**
- Participate in a certain child's game
  - Did 75, say
  - Changes direction abruptly
  - Universally known figure
  - Its body is primed
  - Insertion symbol
  - Tarzan
  - Though, poetically
  - Name used in exclamations
  - A Guinness world record adjective
  - Story of conflict, perhaps
  - Invitation notation
  - What little things mean?
  - Sawn at an angle
  - Churchill's "\_\_\_ Country"
  - Advertising catchword
  - Bluto's dream girl
  - Handyman
  - Consumed with gusto
  - Maroon's locale
  - First name in the "Desperate Housewives" cast
  - Aretha's signature song
  - Telemarketer's aim
  - Not yet final, in law
  - Roll with the punches
  - American writer Plath
  - Cyber annoyance, to many
  - Parent's order
  - Mary Higgins Clark (with "The")
  - Throw angrily
  - Ethereal glow
  - Be revolting?
  - They're held for questioning
  - Heartfelt
  - Stalk by the river

- Down**
- Took a long walk
  - More gelid
  - Karan of fashion
  - Chang's twin
  - Sound partner
  - Gentle stroke
  - Old sleep-inducer
  - She may be out for a buck
  - Rodin, for one
  - Word with "ho"
  - Impulse
  - Pickled delicacies
  - Editor's override
  - October's jewel
  - "Bed of Roses" band Bon \_\_\_
  - Seller's profit margin
  - Is repulsive, in a way
  - Not at one's best
  - Geneticist's study
  - Filled with joy
  - Heckle
  - Lasting introduction?
  - He loved Lucy
  - Slightly cracked
  - It may be tempted
  - They cannot be returned
  - Upraised railroads
  - Vacancies
  - Hyson, for one
  - Venetian farewell
  - Item beside an easy chair
  - One of Seventeen?
  - Musical with a dog
  - Oater assemblage
  - Like some jackets
  - Room meas.
  - Kind of tide
  - Oahu wreaths
  - Let off steam
  - Untainted
  - Letters on a work order, perhaps
  - Pet rock, once
  - Get it wrong

## Police Blotter January 9-January 15

### JFK Causeway to Aquarius

- Crimes against Property**  
 13500 block SPID 1 p.m. January 11 Damage to Vehicle  
**Suspicious Person**  
 11800 block SPID January 15  
 11800 block SPID 1 p.m. January 14  
 11800 block SPID 5 p.m. January 13  
**Traffic**  
 41 Traffic Stops  
 SPID/Aquarius 2 p.m. January 13 Crash  
 SPID/Aquarius 5 a.m. January 12 Crash

### SPID west to Laguna Madre

- Crimes against Person**  
 14100 block Cabana 7 p.m. January 15 Assault  
 14200 block Almeria 11 a.m. January 15 Assault  
 Sabre/Cartagena 8 a.m. January 15 Shots Fired/Deadly Conduct  
 15300 Sabre 8 a.m. January 13 Shots Fired/Deadly Conduct

### Crimes against Property

- 14300 block Commodores 9 p.m. January 13 Theft of Services  
 14300 block Aquarius Noon January 13 Theft of Services  
 14300 block Aquarius Noon January 11 Theft of Firearm  
 15200 block Main Royal 9 a.m. January 10 Destruction of Property  
 16000 block Treine Dr. 1 p.m. January 13 Theft \$100-\$750  
 14100 block Atascadera 4 p.m. January 12 Trespassing  
 15300 block Gypsy 1 a.m. January 11 Theft of Services  
**Disturbance**  
 14400 block SPID 8 p.m. January 14 Public Intoxication  
 14800 block Cobo de Bara 8 p.m. January 14  
 13900 block Suntan 9 a.m. January 14  
 14300 block SPID 2 a.m. January 11  
 14000 block Coquina Bay 1 a.m. January 14

- 15700 block Finistere 7 a.m. January 14 Noise Ordinance Violation  
 14000 block Coquina Bay 11 a.m. January 13  
 14100 block Atascadera 10 a.m. January 12  
**Suspicious Person**  
 14400 block Cabana East 5 p.m. January 15  
 15100 block SPID 10 p.m. January 13  
 Fortuna Bay/Gypsy 9 p.m. January 13  
 Sea Pines/SPID 8 p.m. January 13  
 15500 block SPID January 11  
 16000 block Cuttysark 6 a.m. January 11

### Traffic

- 93 Traffic Stops  
 SH 36 1/SPID 6 p.m. January 13 Crash  
 14200 block SPID 5 a.m. January 12 Hit and Run  
 14200 block SPID 5 a.m. January 12 Crash  
 SPID/SH 361 4 p.m. January 11 Crash  
 14000/block La Blanquilla 4 p.m. January 10 Parking Violation

### SPID east to Gulf of Mexico –

### North to City Limits

- Crimes against Person**  
 Beach Access Road 3A/Gulf Beach 4 p.m. January 9 Harassment  
**Crimes against Property**  
 15000 block Beach Walk Noon January 12 Theft of Services  
 15000 block Beach Walk 11 a.m. January 12 Theft \$2500-\$30,000  
**Disturbance**  
 7900 block Gulf Beach 11 a.m. January 14  
 SH 361/Porto Villageo 2 a.m. January 15  
**Suspicious Person**  
 15200 block Gulf Beach 7 p.m. January 15  
 15000 block Windward 8 a.m. January 13  
 11600 block SH 361 January 11  
**Traffic**  
 52 Traffic Stops  
 15800 block SPID Noon January 15 Parking Violation  
 15200 block Windward Midnight January 15 Crash

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**No texts please**  
 Costs start at \$12 for 25 words, 20 cents a word after that per issue. For a small additional charge, your ad can be centered, made larger or pictures or clip art can be added. Ads with payment can be taken to our office at:  
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### Public Notice

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

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 Benjamin Franklin

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**14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.**  
 In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at **The Pavilion on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali**

## Show us your stuff!

Send photos and letters to [editor@IslandMoon.com](mailto:editor@IslandMoon.com)

Find us on Facebook @Island Moon  
 Read Online at [www.islandmoon.com](http://www.islandmoon.com)

### Crossword Solution

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

## SAFE GUARD

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 Radio Kamikazi, Lemon Drops... \$2.00  
 Monday: Bartender | Wait Nite

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# Island Timeline

Compiled By Mary Craft

*Continued from last edition*

**1988 Padre Island Business Association** founded.

**1989**

**Freeze**

**1990**

**SPID completed to JFK causeway becomes Park Road 22 after bridge.**

**1991**

**PIIC bankrupt**

Many who purchased undeveloped land for cash was never developed.

Westinghouse took over Bill Fennell manager Gulf Isles Limited

**Isle Mail & More** opens in Big Shell Plaza back building.

**American Bank** comes in first bank on Island

**PI Fantasy Football** begins at Island Italian.

**1992**

**Anchor Resort** changed name from Puerto del Padre Island Cleaners next to Padre Hair Salon

**1993**

**1994**

**Paul Schexnaider and Bert Williams** buy 1200 acres from Westinghouse - company name Asset Development.

Unsold lots west side of SPID and undeveloped East side.

Purchased from Gulf Shores Limited was possibly \$6 million.

**William Cocke lawsuit**

**Little Mexico Sand Bar** opens on Hwy 361 next to PI Burger Company and closed 1996.

**1996**

**Seashore Learning Center** opens with 64 students. The Marlin Building where Dairy Queen 2nd - 5th grade was and the old 7/11 building Dolphin Building Kg and 1st grade.

**Padre Island Yacht Club** built at end of Whitecap.

**Murray's Chevron on the Island** at SPID & Aquarius. Owners Joyce and Dick, Beer sandwiches and ice cream.

**Lucky777 Game Room** Pk Rd 22 before Bob Hall turn

**Isle Mail & More** moves to present location.

**Neighborhood Care Center** on SPID where vacant medical building is.

**Island Sports** probably earlier than 1996. Had octopus on roof.

**361 Bridge raised to 20'**

**Presbyterian Church**

**Green Surroundings** becomes Island Hardware & Lumber owner Bryan Fennel.

**Little Mexico Sand Bar** may have opened earlier where 2 Seas was and now Texas Mesquite BBQ.

**1997**

**Padre Pizza** opens owner Ron Estes served Country breakfast.

**Island Marine Services** on SPID where La Isla Restaurant is

**JFK Seafood Restaurant** under the bridge north side of intracoastal.

**Island Home** real estate where Keller Williams is no owned by Ron & Kim Erwin.

**Frost Bank** temporary quarters at Big Shell Plaza near Subway.

**Island Carpet** in Big Shell Plaza

**2 Seas Restaurant Bar** opened by Charlie Boyd in former Little Mexico.

**Best Western** opens on SPID.

**Merchant of Ivory Flowers & Gifts** at Big Shell Plaza sold sandwiches and ice cream.

**Island Club** at Lighthouse Paula and Tom Mahar

**Island in the Son United Methodist Church** on Hwy 361.

**Design Center Furniture** in Pelican Plaza

**El Faro Restaurant** opens at lower level of Lighthouse. Benny Valdez purchased building.

**Smitty Sign**

**Beach Lover** opens where Jitos was selling clothing beach and surf items.

**Mail n More Plaza**

**1998**

**Sea Breeze Ministries** in blue octagon building on SPID.

**Smitty's Grocery** breaks ground ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Halo flight helipad** at Spohn Neighbor Care Center

**Treasure Island Golf**

**Haley's Salon** opens in back side of Mail & More Plaza.

**Animal Hospital of Padre Island**

**Rosseel's European Bakery** opens Mail & More Plaza. Owners from Belgium.

**Art's Cafe** moved from Port A to Lighthouse

**Waterworks Car Wash**

**Choi's Taekwondo** 15715 SPID

**Padre Island Garden Center & Hardware** at Aquarius & SPID

**1999**

**Evits's Mexican Restaurant** opens in Mail & More Plaza.

**Frenchy's fire**

**Padre Island Bloomers** opens in Mail & More Plaza formerly Merchant of Ivory.

**Reel Action Videos** opens 14613 SPID

**Candle Scenter** opens next to Island Tire

**2001**

**First 4th of July Boat Parade**

**Sandboodle's Cafe** opens in Big Shell served from scratch menu.

**Island Chiropractic Dr. Daxton**

**Krugman** opens on Compass.

**Banana Boat Sports Bar & Grill** served Greek, Cajun and Italian owner Spiro.

**Frenchy's under the bridge**

**Island Javas** opened inside Padre Pizzeria.

**Island Tire** opens

**Island Insurance Agency** opens in Boardwalk Plaza.

**2002**

**Island Curves** opens in Day & Night Boardwalk Plaza.

**Sonic**

**The Country Store** on SPID between Whitecap and Seapines.

**Lafitte's Carribean & Cajun Cuisine** near Island Tire.

**2004**

**Irma's 2 Seas**

**Mimi's Restaurant?**

**New Frenchy's under bridge**

**2005**

**First Island Mardi Gras**

**J.P. Luby pier pilings removed**

**Perk Up Coffee Shop**

**2006**

**Tsumani Bar & Grill** at Loma Alta Plazaq where Scuttlebutt's is

**Dana's** opens on Hwy 361 where 2 Seas was.

**2007**

**La Palatera** serving sandwiches fruit, smoothies and ice cream where Padre Island Burger is.

**The Office Lounge** one of the first no smoking bars. Where Rock n Roll was in half of the unit.

**Sushi Bar** next door to Office Lounge the other half.

**Island Potations Coffee Shop** sandwiches, ice cream

**Lighthouse Beach Bar & Grill**

**Ozone Grill at Bob Hall Pier**

**Seashore Miiddle School Academy**

**Gauze R Us** where Dragonfly Restaurant is now

**Candle Scenter** moved to Island Living Furniture in Pelican Plaza.

**Yellow Pelican Gallery** at Boardwalk Plaza

**2008**

**Covered Up Surf & Skate** opened by two local surfers at Boardwalk Plaza near bridge.

**Ace Hardware**

**Maryann's Way** sidewalk built on Whitecap in honor of Maryanne Simonelli who was killed in 2005 walking. She was the third pedestrian killed on that road.

**Padre Island Burger Company**

**Johnny D's Restaurant** next to Island Tire

**Padre Station Plaza** next to the Medical Center

**Kinkade's Restaurant** at Lighthouse

**Mail n More expanded and coffee shop added**

**2011**

**Seawall renamed Michael J. Ellis** after Island Moon Newspaper founder.

**2013**

**Coffee Waves trailer** near Pelican Plaza

**Johnny D's Restaurant** closed.

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# State Law for Dissolution of Emergency Services District

Sec. 775.052. PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION; NOTICE OF HEARING.

(a) Before a district may be dissolved, the district's board must receive a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the following: "Dissolving the \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Services District."

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

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

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

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

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

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

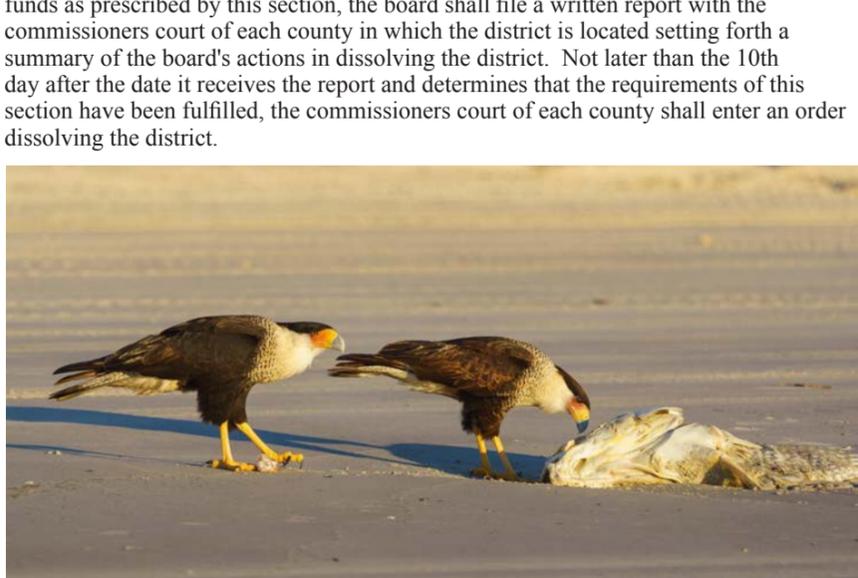
- (1) determine the debt owed by the district; and
- (2) impose on the property included in the district's tax rolls a tax that is in proportion of the debt to the property value.

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

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

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

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



*Crested caracara feasting on washed up dead black drum Photo By Marvin Orellano*

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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com



## Can't dance...



bar has been a mainstay for live music and relaxation for going on two decades and we Moon Monkeys wish him many more years



Island Wine proprietor Miss Lara White at last year's Mardi Gras party,

The Gaff easily had 300 people at the Beltsander Races last Saturday.

Just to state the obvious, our Winter Texan family has arrived...many, many of them. If you don't believe me, just cruise through the IGA or Bernie's Beach House parking lots any afternoon and count the license plates from all points north. I'm not sure why I get such a thrill from seeing a plate from Ottawa or Wisconsin but it brings out the little kid in me. I stopped in to the world famous BELT SANDER RACES at the Gaff last Saturday and it was beyond packed to the rafters with Winter Texans. I bet there were over 300 people out there in the back yard. And the first show of this year's Wednesday residency at Bernie's with the PA Rockers was a rousing success. This is all good stuff folks. We need our Winter Texans and depend on their yearly migration in our "off season". We finally made it through the train wreck of a year that 2022 was, and without one single hurricane! And sure, there was a ton of stuff that went wrong, but we made it. Most of us anyhow... we lost a lot of folks last year. Me and my Mermaid Gal even got COVID during our trip to Mexico at Christmas, but somehow made it home alive. We're OK now... clean living I suppose... speaking of which, I turned 70 this week. Let that sink in. I honestly never thought I'd live this long having tempted fate more times than I care to count. I have always approached life with a solid "leading with my chin" sense of misdirection. I must have a well worn out guardian angel watching over me. Blind luck is more like it. We went to our favorite restaurant, Lisabella's, on my birthday on Wednesday. It's our "special place" for celebratory dinners. We adore the food and the love the Amundsens who own and run the place. So that's it. I'm 70 now and 2022 didn't kill me. I'll take it... small miracles I guess... can't dance.

## On the local front...



The PA Rockers began their Winter Wednesday residency at Bernie's Beach House last week.

I received some disturbing news from Lara White, owner of Island Wine in Port Aransas, that the new landlord at the Tower Center has recently chosen not to renew their lease and have more than doubled what they are paying now. "We have given careful consideration and analysis of your proposal and unfortunately, we have elected to not renew your lease upon expiration. Analysis of your sales volume you provided indicates that your new rent leave would be at near 31% of your gross sales. This is more than double the ratio exhibited by successful bar/restaurants and industry standards. We want to encourage you to seek a location in the Port Aransas market that would provide a rent level that would allow you to make your concept a success." Well, that's just all kinds of messed up. The reason I've written about this here is hoping somebody out there might be able to help these good people find a new location for Island Wine. We need to keep this place going! Otherwise this coming Mardi Gras in February could be their last hurrah. And in other local news, there is movement over on Tarpon Street. You may or may not be aware that Port A's "Oldest and Friendliest" bar, Shorty's Place, will relocate, building and all, from the spot they've occupied for the last 76 years to the corner of Beach and Alister where Castaways Seafood once was. I was nosing around the flats last week and saw something stirring next door to Shorty's in that building that once housed the old Rod and Gun Club, Flats Lounge and most recently Howie's. I smell something. And finally on the local front, I want to congratulate Irfan Kardas on the 19th anniversary of his most excellent Pelican Lounge on North Padre. His



There's movement on Tarpon Street. of continued fun.



Vince King with the musical A Night with Elvis played the Port Aransas Community Theater last week. Photo by Heidi Shannon.

## Scattered shots...

The Port Aransas Community Theater recently produced the musical, "A Night with Elvis" starring Vince King and the Vegas Mafia Band from the Houston area. We didn't make it to the play due to a pesky virus going around (you may have heard about it) but my pal Heidi attended and took some great pics for me. Sorry we missed it. But we did catch the first show of the PA Rockers weekly winter residency at Bernie's Beach House last Wednesday. Their target audience (that being a battalion of Winter Texans) was thoroughly in attendance. You can catch the Rockers every Wednesday until March for these non-smoking shows that start early at 6:30. Take my advice and check out one of their shows this winter. It's a bonafied hoot. Those old codgers still know how to party! Wait!!! I am an old codger. Oh, and BTW... WELCOME HOME WINTER TEXANS!!!

## DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...

Coming this Thursday watch for troubadour Brad Etheridge at the Gaff and the fun team of Ron Baker and Jon Dunaway at Island Wine. Ron use to play guitar with Charlie Pride for many years. On Friday our resident Rasta Cowboy Billy Snipes plays our favorite pirate bar, the Gaff. Earlier Billy plays the Rockport Market Days at 10 AM. On Saturday, the ChillBillies play the VFW, Coach Jim Dude Dugan plays the Gaff and Michael Amos plays Island Wine. Plus on Saturday, Padre Island has some noteworthy shows going on with Stevie Start playing the Salty Dolphin, the Rockaholics playing Packery Bar and Diamond's Edge playing the birthday celebration at the Pelican Lounge. On Sunday, watch for Tumble Dry Low at Bernie's and Barbara Jenice at Island Wine. Plus on Sunday, Jennifer Gayle Bradley does her Billy Joel tribute at Blackbeard's by the Bay and Michael Burttts will play the Salty Dolphin. That ought to hold you for a while. Be safe out there!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Billy Snipes will play the Gaff on Friday



The ChillBillies will play the VFW on Saturday.

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

## Thursday,

### January 19

Brad Etheridge @ Gaff  
Ron & Jon @ Island Wine  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's  
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian  
Kevin Kurtz @ Packery Bar  
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's  
David Martinez @ Brewster Southside  
Tres Matts, Animal Mood, Hardknocks @ House of Rock  
Braxton Keith, Michael Burttts @ Brewster Downtown

## Friday,

### January 20

Billy Snipes @ Gaff  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Cruise Control @ Pelican  
Alonzo Cruz @ Packery Bar  
Billy Snipes @ Rockport Market  
Days 10AM  
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside  
Flat Broke @ Rockit's  
Gameshow Karaoke @ House of Rock  
Falco & the Wolf @ Vernon's

## Saturday,

### January 21

ChillBillies @ VFW  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Michael Amos @ Island Wine  
I.L, Wristslits @ House of Rock  
Afterglow @ Pelican  
Stevie Start @ Salty Dolphin  
Rockaholics @ Packery Bar  
Tony & Lisa @ Blackbeard's  
Diamond's Edge @ Rockit's  
Michael Burttts @ Brewster Southside  
Dreaming in Color @ Vernon's  
Groove @ Sugar Shack  
Seattle Rising: Grunge & Alt  
Tribute @ Brewster Downtown

## Sunday,

### January 22

Barbara Jenice @ Island Wine  
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's  
Jerry Ward @ Pelican  
Jennifer Gayle

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Thursday: 7:30 Ron Baker & Jon Dunaway  
Friday: 7-11 Karaoke  
Saturday: 7-10 Michael Amos  
Sunday: 3-6 Barbara Jenice

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**RIPTIDE** Wednesday, Jan 25  
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Bradley @ Blackbeard's  
Michael Burttts @ Salty Dolphin

## Monday,

### January 23

Minnow Racing @ Gaff  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

## Tuesday,

### January 24

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

## Wednesday,

### January 25

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

## Thursday,

### January 26

Ruben Limas @ Island Wine  
Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff  
John Elijah @ Packery Bar  
Alley Catz Duo @ Brewster Southside  
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's

## Friday,

### January 27

Billy Snipes @ Gaff  
Randall King @ Brewster Downtown  
Dreaming in Color @ Pelican  
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Eric Graham @ Brewster Southside  
Randall King @ Brewster Downtown  
Dial-Ups @ Rockit's  
18 Hours @ House of Rock  
Corpus Creepys @ Vernon's

## Saturday,

### January 28

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

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