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Issue 1040



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 22, 2024

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version Available Online!

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

Weekly FREE



Great Blue Heron and Great Egret patrolling for sticks for their nests. LuAnn Kingsbury



By Dale Rankin
Spring Break 2024 is now officially behind us and it can be said that we registered only one day with favorable weather. Crowds hit the beach on Saturday under sunny skies with fair winds but for the other two weeks that constitute spring break hereabouts it was either cloudy, rainy, or windy and sometimes all three. The traffic jams that often clog our roads during this period failed to materialize this year and now we await further weather events as we roll through the heart of the Island.

Happy Time.

We haven't had time to check this week but here's hoping that the medical plan at the Corpus Christi Police Department includes treatment for writer's cramp since officers wrote a total of 1500 traffic tickets over the course of Spring Break 2024. Drivers motivating across the JFK Causeway and along State Highway 361 over the past two weeks can attest to the steady presence of officers heading off trouble before it happened. The good news is that even with the spring break traffic there were only 19 traffic accidents reported with several of those at the light at the SPID/Aquarius intersection. Officers also answered a total of 21 Noise Ordinance Violations when things got out of control. CCPD assigned bike officers to Island neighborhoods which resulted in the reporting of only two burglaries. There were the usual dust ups and conflicts that arise when the beach crowds roll in but all in all this has to go down as one of the most peaceful and non-disruptive spring breaks in memory. The Island Happy Time rolls on through the last week in May when Memorial Day brings us the No Left Turn Summer Around The Island. It's time to exhale and enjoy our Island everybody.

Stick 'em up!

If you notice a few things out of place in this issue of the Island Moon it's because our computer system was hacked this week and we are being held for ransom. Our files going all the way back to 2007 were turned into a bunch of wiggly lines unless we cough up the cost of half a bit coin. We're working through the process and hope to have things back to normal by this time next week. How a little weekly newspaper on a sandbar in the Gulf of Mexico ended up warranting being raided by computer extortionists is still unknown and flattering in its own way but infuriating nonetheless. Bear with us.

Yacht Club event

And finally this weekend marks the first annual Boat Show & Market Days

Bob Hall Pier Design Approved

Restaurant building is back in the plan



This design rendering of Bob Hall Pier was presented this week to County Official has a restaurant space. Currently, the restaurant space has not been fully designed. More Images on page 2 of this Issue.

By Dale Rankin
The design for a new 1253-foot long Bob Hall Pier will go out to bids on April 1 with construction on the \$19.5 million project anticipated to begin by the end of 2024.

Nueces County Commissioners on Tuesday approved the final plans for the pier and in a separate move dedicated an additional \$1 million

from a combination of funds from different sources to add a restaurant structure as the plan moves

Bob Hall cont. on A3

Public invited

Boat Show & Market Days Padre Island Yacht Club

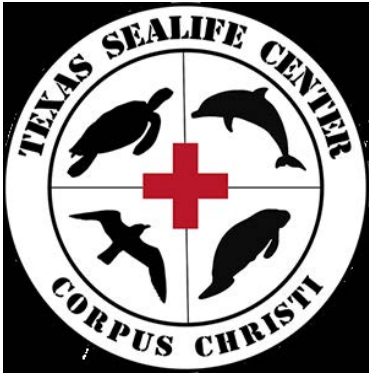
Saturday, March 23, Sunday, March 24

The public is invited to attend the first annual Padre Island Yacht Club and Boat Show & Market Days on Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24 at the club. The event includes a boat show by Gulf Coast Marine which will have boats on trailers and in the water, and more than forty vendors, many with a nautical theme, food trucks, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct free boat safety inspections. The event

is also a fundraiser for the 4th of July Island Blast fireworks show which funded solely by donations. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. There is a two dollar entry fee all of which is a donation to the Island Blast Fireworks show. Children under eleven are free. Parking is along Whitecap Boulevard and free shuttles to the event will be provided. The Padre Island Yacht Club is located at 13403 Whitecap Boulevard, at the west end of Whitecap Blvd.



Padre Island Charity Poker Run Season kicks off next week



The first Padre Island Charity Poker run of the year will be held on Thursday, March 28th benefitting The Texas Sealife Center. The Padre Island Poker run is one of the most successful events benefitting Island Non-profits so come out and support one of our favorite charities The Texas



Poker cont. on A3

A little South Texas history

Texas Rangers in Mexico City

Editor's note: As our readers know in the past several issues we have been running a series on the Texas Rangers in the Nueces Strip in the late 1870s. Due to an attack on our computer system we are unable to run the next installment of that series in this issue and hope to continue it next week. This week we jump back a few decades to the late 1840s as Texas Rangers entered Mexico City as part of the U.S. Army in the U.S. – Mexico War.

Troops of Texas Rangers under the leadership of legendary Texas



John Coffee Hays

Ranger Colonel Jack Hays fought their way through the streets of Monterrey, Mexico in house to house fighting before being recalled to San Antonio where they reformed, adding more men and arming themselves with two long-barreled six-shot Colt pistols as they landed in Veracruz and began a march to Mexico City. Their accoutrements were few; besides the pistols and a rifle each Ranger carried a knife, a hemp rope or hair lariat, and a raw-hide riata. But being formed and

History cont. on page A5

By the numbers

The New Bob Hall Pier

Cost

\$27.3 million total budget for new pier
\$2.9 million spend to demolish the old pier structure
\$2.8 million cost of design and engineer work
\$19.5 million estimated cost of new pier
\$21.5 million currently available for new pier
\$3.6 million cost of adding restaurant structure to new pier

Structure

1253 feet long
18.5 feet above sea level
20 feet wide
150 mph - designed to stand 150 mph winds
33 feet between each support piling
58 feet x 58 feet public plaza
5 feet by 13 feet – size of break-away wooden panels that make up the pier walkway
2 fish cleaning stations
1 NOAA weather station
4 Separate items in bid package:
1) Pier structure
2) Cost of turning old (remaining) Mikel May's structure into a public viewing area
3) NOAA platform
4) UHMW (composite) sleeves to cover steel pilings in new pier (expected to extend the life of the steel pilings by 15-20 years)

Bob Hall Rebuild schedule

March 18 Nueces County Coastal Parks Board approves moving forward with 100% design for new pier
March 20 Nueces County Commissioners Court approves moving forward with 100% design for new pier
April 1 project goes out for bids
May 9 open bids
May 22 selection of bidder (contractor) for the project
June 1 contract with selected bidder goes to Nueces County Commissions Court for approval of contract
December 2024 (or before) construction begins



Did this week leave you feeling like you were the heron or the bobcat?

It can be hard for some of us to witness wildlife interactions like the one this photographer captured in coastal Texas, but it's a key part of the way that our ecosystems work. The great blue heron eats small fish, frogs or mammals; the bobcat eats the great blue heron; and scavengers like black vultures clean up anything the bobcat leaves behind. All the nutrients cycle back into the system.

Photos: used with permission by Jacob Hall

Post from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Tricolored Heron By Laura Bennett

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Perspective View

Bob Hall Pier
April 21, 2023

Jacobs



Perspective View

Bob Hall Pier
April 21, 2023

Jacobs

Bob Hall Pier Renderings from Jacobs Engineering.



Capt. Dillon Beck, Joshua Mettlach, Caleb Sumrall, and Capt. Brett Carron hauled in this catch Wednesday morning out of Marker 37 Marina

REAL LIFE CHURCH @ ISLAND IN THE SON
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
6:30 PM MARCH 29
myreallife.org

GOOD FRIDAY



CELEBRATE EASTER WITH REAL LIFE CHURCH!

We are so excited to welcome you to our Easter celebrations!

- Good Friday service @ 6:30pm on March 29 @ our temporary home of Island in the Son (10650 SH-361) 🏛️
- Sunrise service @ 7am Easter morning, March 31 @ Whitecap Beach 🌅🌊. Meet us at the bottom of the parking lot next to the Wyndham between mile 215 & 216 for coffee, worship, a great message and communion. Bring a lawn chair!

We can't wait to see you there! 🌴☀️🏛️

real people. real community. real life.



Lead Pastor Micah Davidson

Easter



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
7 AM SUNDAY MARCH 31
WHITECAP BEACH SEAWALL
BETWEEN MILE 215 & 216
myreallife.org

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.

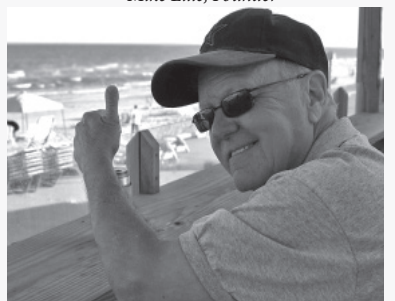


Please contribute to the Riley P. Dog Park!



Moon Monkeys

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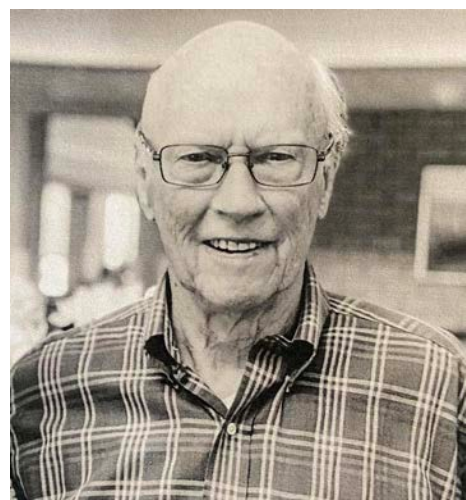
Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

Island obituary

“Eugene (Gene) H. Koch

June 11, 1938 - December 18, 2023



Our home has a sign in the entry saying, “Life is about good friends and great adventures”. My husband Gene and I have been fortunate to have both in our lives. Gene was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1938. After becoming an officer in the Navy, he fell in love with the sea. From the early days of our marriage in 1965 Philadelphia, we had dreamed of traveling on a boat. As we were raising our two sons, Gene III (Trey) and Scott Patrick, in San Antonio, we were also reading cruising magazines and listening to stories of other people who were living their lives on the

water. When Gene was offered a job in Corpus Christ, Texas, we moved one step closer to our dream as we lived on Padre Island with the Gulf of Mexico at our back door. The Kochs moved to Padre Island in 1982 and were some of the first residents at Commodores Cove. Gene was one of the founders of the Padre Island Yacht Club. He was an early commodore and was involved in the decision to build our club’s building. After Trey graduated from college and Scott was well on his way to getting a degree, Gene retired from his job with Frost Bank and in 1994 we got aboard our boat, the Illusion, sailing away from home. Little did we know what we were getting into as we cruised the Gulf of Mexico from South Texas to the Caribbean, and then up the East Coast. On the way we met interesting people and visited large ports and small villages. Each stop had a special charm. For years we cruised from the East Coast to Philadelphia, Chesapeake Bay, the Bahamas, and then back to Texas. Visiting with cousins on the West Coast, we discovered Oregon and Washington and decided to have our boat trucked there. As we visited new ports, Gene did the navigating and I planned the trips ashore, writing articles for the Padre Island Moon titled

Beyond the JFK. The articles encouraged other Padre Islanders to take short and long-term cruises. We spent seven years on a port in Vancouver Island. Several summers we cruised the Inland Passage to Alaska, not on a cruise ship, but on our own floating home. As our years on the water added up, our family continued to grow. Our son Trey married his wife Lisa, Scott married his wife, and we now have five grandchildren. We did not want to miss the special part of being grandparents, so we decided to move ashore. Our boat was requiring more maintenance and so were we. We chose Ashland, Oregon as our new home port. Gene had much more time to devote to family, friends, and the activities that were always going on. After more than fifteen years, our roots in the Ashland community are deep and special.

Gene passed peacefully at his home in Ashland, Oregon on December 18, 2023 surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Bernice Koch; his eldest son, Trey Koch; his youngest son, Scott Koch; his grandchildren Lux, Cody, Thea, and Exum. He also leaves behind his brother, Tom Koch, and his youngest sister, Sue Witten.”

Bernice Koch

Bob Hall cont. from A1

forward.

Designers presented the 100% complete plans for the pier to the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board on Monday where it was approved and forwarded to the Nueces County Commissioners Court on Wednesday where it was given final budgeting approval allowing it to move through the bidding process and toward construction. The pilings on the new pier will be made of treated steel filled with concrete and will be surrounded by a protective sleeve made of ultra high molecular weight polyethylene (UHMW) which is designed to extend the life of steel pilings by 15 years, according to designers. The pier surface will consist of five by thirteen-foot wide wooden panels designed to pop off during high wave and water events which sit atop 33-foot long concrete support beams. The railings will be of wood construction at a height of three-and-one-half feet. The plans do not include benches or shade structures, but do include lighting under the pier. The plans call for two sets of public restrooms, one set is to be located in the free area of the pier, a second set behind a gate where a fee is required. It also includes a concession area which will be operated by the county.

The plans approved this week do not include the restaurant structure which is currently at 30% design, however, in anticipation of adding the restaurant building the plans approved call for the

area of the pier where the structure will be located to be reinforced to allow for the addition of the building without further work. The design on the restaurant structure will move forward on a separate track in so as not to impede progress on the pier structure itself.

The plan approved Tuesday calls for a public space fifty-eight by fifty-eight feet which will eventually be included in the restaurant structure along with the only remaining piece of the former pier currently standing bringing the total restaurant space to 5000 square-feet.

The restaurant

The restaurant building, referred to as a Third Party Concession area in the plans, is estimated to cost \$2.5 million with \$1.5 million remaining from original funding. Commissioners on Wednesday announced that the Port of Corpus Christi has agreed to provide \$250,000 in 2024 and an additional; \$250,000 in 2025. In addition Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney and County Judge Connie Scott allocated an additional \$500,000 from county funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to reach the \$2.5 million needed for construction of the restaurant structure. No timeline for design, bids, and construction on the restaurant structure was announced.

Around cont. from A1

Market Days at the Padre Island Yacht Club. Details are included in this issue and we want to encourage everyone to go out and support the event as it becomes part of the annual Island calendar. The \$2 admission fee is being donated to the Island July 4 Fireworks Show and the event includes boats from Gulf Coast Marine and kayaks from Wind & Wave, including a hybrid with an electric motor; is this a great Island or what...our kayaks have motors!

Anyway go out and support this Saturday and Sunday event if you can and we will see you there. In the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Tricolored Heron By Laura Bennett

Poker cont. from A1

Sealife Center. The event starts at The Black Sheep Bistro at 6:00 P.M. where you can get your entry card. The next stop is The Boathouse Bar & Grill, then on to The Salty Dolphin and ending at The Angry Marlin where there will be a silent and live auction. There will also be gift cards for best hand,

worst hand and best decorated vehicle. The theme is “Turtally Awesome” so use your imagination and decorate your cart, jeep or vehicle in a turtle theme. It isn’t a race so join in when you can as prizes and gift cards won’t be awarded until 9:00 P.M. at The Angry Marlin.

Where to Find The Island Moon

Port Aransas	All Stripes Stores
Pioneer RV	Black Sheep/ Barrel
Stripes on 1A	CVS
Kody’s	Dollar General
Coffee Waves	Doc’s Restaurant
Moby Dicks	Snoopy’s Pier
IGA	Isle Mail N More
Treasure Island	Island Italian
San Juan’s Restaurant	Brooklyn Pie Co.
Wash Tub	Ace Hardware
Shorty’s Place	Texas Star (Shell)
Gratitude	Spanky’s
The Gaff	Scuttlebutt’s
Red’s Riviera	Restaurant
Sounds Good BBQ	Subway
Spanky’s Liquor	Island Tire
Beach Lodge	Padre Pizzeria
Ellis Memorial Library	And all Moon retail advertisers
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Flour Bluff	Island IGA
H.E.B.	Island Fitness
Ethyl Everly Senior Center	My Coastal Home
North Padre	

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The Bay King is 55ft of bay fishing excellence! For many years this vessel fished the waters of the lower Laguna Madre out of South Padre Island. Starting March 2024, this legend makes its way to the upper Laguna Madre to call North Padre Island it’s new home.

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- SWIMMING POOL CRACKS SEALED
- SWIMMING AND POOL DECKING LEVELED
- CONCRETE FOUNDATION LEVELING
- PIER AND BEAM FOUNDATION WORK

BULKHEAD REPAIR

BULKHEAD REHABILITATION

BEFORE AFTER

- CONCRETE LEVELED
- SOIL EROSION VOIDS FILLED
- SWIMMING POOL CRACKS SEALED
- SWIMMING AND POOL DECKING LEVELED
- CONCRETE FOUNDATION LEVELING
- PIER AND BEAM FOUNDATION WORK

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Pancho Villa Expedition Part 2



Dotson's Note: Pershing immediately sent the 7th Cavalry (seven troops in two squadrons) south just after midnight on March 18 to begin the pursuit, followed by the 10th Cavalry moving by rail two days later. From March 20 to March 30, as the 11th Cavalry arrived in Columbus by train from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and then forced marched into Mexico, Pershing dispatched four additional "flying columns" through the mountainous territory into the gaps between the original three columns. Persistent winter weather through early April, particularly bitterly cold nights at high altitude, made both pursuit and logistics more difficult. An additional regiment of cavalry and two of infantry were added to the expedition in late April, bringing its total size to 4,800 men. Ultimately more than 10,000 men—virtually every available unit of the Regular Army and additional National Guard troops—were committed to the expedition either in Mexico or its supporting units at Columbus.



Maj. Gen. John Pershing of the National Army Because of disputes with the Carranza administration over the use of the Mexico North Western Railway to supply Pershing's troops, the United States Army employed trucks to convoy supplies to the encampment where the Signal Corps also set up wireless telegraph service from the border to Pershing's headquarters. This was the first use of truck convoys in a U.S. military operation and provided useful experience for the future World War. During this phase of the campaign Pershing maintained a small mobile headquarters of 30 men using a Dodge touring car for personal transportation, to keep abreast of the moving columns and control their movements, employing aircraft of the 1st Aero Squadron as messengers. His headquarters advanced as far as the 1st Aero Squadron's field at Satevó, southeast of Chihuahua City, before falling back at the end of April. Villa had a six-day head start on the pursuit, all but ensuring that his forces would successfully break up into smaller bands and he would be able to hide in the trackless mountains. Nevertheless, he was nearly caught by the forced marches of the pursuing cavalry columns when he recklessly paused in his retreat to attack a Carrancista garrison. The Battle of Guerrero was fought on March 29, 1916, after a 55-mile night march through the snowy Sierra Madre by Colonel George A. Dodd and 370 men of the 7th Cavalry. 360 Villistas had remained in Guerrero celebrating the victory won over the Carrancista garrison and 160 more were in the next valley in nearby San Ysidro.

Above, Staging area for truck trains that supplied troops of General John J. Pershing during the Pancho Villa Expedition, in Columbus, New Mexico.

Dodd's force was unexpected by the Villista, who hastily dispersed when the U.S. troops appeared on the steep eastern bluffs overlooking the town. Dodd immediately attacked, sending one squadron west around the town to block escape routes and advancing with the other. A planned charge was thwarted when the fatigued horses were unable to attain the proper gait. During a

five-hour pursuit of fleeing Villista elements, over 75 of Villa's men were killed or wounded and he was forced to retreat into the mountains. Only five of the Americans were hurt, none of them fatally. The battle is considered the single most successful engagement of the expedition and possibly the closest Pershing's men came to capturing Villa. After advancing from Namiquipa on March 24 to San Diego del Monte, the 10th Cavalry became isolated from Pershing's headquarters by a fierce snow storm on March 31. A squadron of the 10th marched toward Guerrero after receiving reports of the action there and at midday April 1 a meeting engagement resulted with one of the retreating Villista groups, 150 strong, under Francisco Beltran at a ranch near Agua Caliente. Breaking up into even smaller groups and retreating over a wooded ridge, some of the Villistas attempted to defend themselves behind a stone wall, resulting in what was purported to be the first mounted cavalry charge by U.S. troops since 1898, led by Major Charles Young. The pursuit lasted until darkness and the Buffalo Soldiers killed at least two Villistas left on the field and routed the remainder without loss. The action also was the first time the U.S. Army used plunging fire by machine guns to support an attack. The columns pushed deeper into Mexico, increasing tensions between the United States and the Carranza government. On April 12, 1916, Major Frank Tompkins and Troops K and M, 13th Cavalry, numbering 128 men, were attacked by an estimated 500 Mexican troops as they were leaving the town of Parral, 513 miles into Mexico and almost to the state of Durango, following violent protests by the civilian populace. Tompkins had been personally ordered to avoid a straight-up engagement with de facto government troops to prevent war between the countries and so used a rear guard to keep the Carrancistas at a distance during a retreat to his starting point, the fortified village of Santa Cruz de Villegas. Two Americans were killed in the skirmishing, one was missing from the rear guard, and another six were wounded, while the Carrancista's lost between fourteen and seventy men, according to conflicting accounts.



Above, American soldiers cross the arid plains south of Columbus, New Mexico. The battle marked a turning point in the campaign. Military opposition by Carranza forced a halt in further pursuit while diplomatic conversations took place by both nations to avoid war. Only four days earlier, on April 8, Army Chief of Staff General Hugh L. Scott had expressed to Secretary of War Baker that Pershing had virtually accomplished his mission and that it was "not dignified for the United States to be hunting one man in a foreign country". Baker concurred and so advised Wilson, but following the fight at Parral the administration refused to withdraw the expedition, not wanting to be seen as caving in to Mexican pressure during an election year. Instead, on April 21 Pershing ordered the four columns that had converged near Parral to withdraw to San Antonio de Los Arenales.

TO BE CONTINUED

Dotson's Other Note: A week later Gen. Scott assigned the cavalry regiments, including the newly arrived 5th Cavalry, to five districts created in central Chihuahua in which to patrol and seek out the smaller bands. The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397. It's your two hours; please let us hear from you.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

As we often say in these pages the Large Print doth giveth and the small print doth taketh away. As we approach the election season a corollary of that is that it is the items at the top of the ballot that get the most attention while it is the races at the bottom of the ballot that we live with every day. Think of it this way; you are a lot more likely to end up in front of the Justice of the Peace than the President. With that said the races way down there on an upcoming May ballot that few voters will pay attention to could have the most profound impact on Island pocketbooks than any we have ever seen before.

Nueces Appraisal District

For the first time ever some members of the Board of Directors of the Nueces County Appraisal District are going to be elected. There are two boards that run the appraisal district, the Board of Directors currently has eight members appointed by the various taxing entities and primarily makes budget decisions. The second board is the Appraisal Review Board (ARB) and the one most of us are familiar with since it is the one we encounter when we appeal our property values and both boards are undergoing profound changes as a result of new rules that came out of the last session of the legislature.

Let's start with the Board of Directors. That board is going to be changed and will go from the current eight members to nine and while most of those members will still be appointed by the cities in the county and Nueces County Commissioners three will now be elected by the public. Until now that board has not appointed members of the Appraisal Review Board; instead members of the ARB have been appointed by a rotating and random list of District Judges who for the most part appoint ARB members recommended by the staff at the NCAD. But moving forward, at least as things now stand, members of the ARB will be chosen by the board of directors.

That is important because on May 4, barely a month from now, three of the members of the Board of Directors will be elected for the first time and there are a couple of wrinkles here that taxpayers need to know about because they will have a profound impact on our property values going forward.

Two powerful seats

Under the new rules appointees to the ARB must have the approval of two of the three new members of the Board of Directors who will be elected in May. That means that two of the three elected board members will have veto power over any new appointees to the ARB that actually hears cases. Those are two powerful seats.

Second, and this is crucial, the Board of Directors of the district are in charge of running the election for the three new members who are running for three separate seats that are being added to the current board. As you read this there is no requirement that the eleven candidates who have announced for those three seats must file any campaign finance reports. Think about

that. This smells like a power grab. In order to add members to the ARB two members of the Board of Directors who are elected must give their approval and we don't know who is backing them for office with their pocketbook. This is the only election like this there is.

As we sit here today Nueces County had to cut \$8 million from its current fiscal budget because of an appeal of property value filed by a local refinery and while the case is on appeal the refinery pays the lower appraised value, which is what led to the current county deficit. If a refinery or any other large taxpayer in Nueces County decides to throw money at the races for the three seats on the Board of Directors in order to get friendly faces there we will never know about it. If those two board votes place equally friendly faces on the ARB that board can hand out low property values to their backers and the only course of action left is through the courts if the Board of Directors decides to go that route. This will shift the tax burden in the county toward residential property owners. The current failure to require candidates to disclose their financial backers changes the game entirely and the Board of Directors has the power to require that they be filed but so far that has not happened and according to a White Paper from the Texas Secretary of State quoted in these pages last week they are not required to; that is up to the board in each appraisal district and so far ours has remained silent on the matter.

Realpolitik

So where does that leave us as Islanders? In fact it leaves us in a very good position if we take advantage of it. As stated the eleven candidates running for the board are split into three separate races with four candidates in two races and three in the third. The new law requires that the winner in each race get a majority of votes and with those crowded fields there is almost certainly going to be three runoff elections in June. The last countywide May election was in 2022 when only 6412 of 211,321 (3%) registered voters in the county cast ballots and if there is a June runoff election it is quite possible the races for the three seats on the Appraisal District Board of Directors will be the only races on the ballot. If that is the case cut that 6412 number by at least half and all three seats could be decided by 1500 votes. As mentioned we have 8400 registered Island voters and if we all vote for the same three candidates in the three separate races then we would have sway over three seats on the Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors and two of them have to approve members of the ARB which hears the appeals of our property values. I like the sound of that.

The realpolitik of why this system was devised in Austin remain opaque and really don't matter, what matters is that if Island voters pay attention we can fundamentally change the way our property is valued for taxation purposes. Instead of just complaining about how we are taxed on The Island we can actually do something about it.

That's a power grab we can live with.

SEASHORE CHARTER SCHOOLS

HOOKED ON EXCELLENCE

WHAT ARE WE?

- Public charter school
- We are a tuition free school
- Elementary and middle school campuses

WHO DO WE SERVE?

- Grades K-8
- Students living on the Island, Flour Bluff, NAS, and Port Aransas

WHY SEASHORE SCHOOLS?

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<https://seashorecharterschools.com>

SCAN ME

History cont. from A1

trained as border fighters and not Army regulars their dress was up to each Ranger. As Hays and two companies rode into Puebla, Mexico Albert Brackett, a lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers wrote the following description:

They certainly were an odd-looking set of fellows, and it seems to be their aim to dress as outlandishly as possible. Bobtailed coats and "longtailed blues" low and high-crowned hats, some slouched and others Panama, with a sprinkling of black leather caps, constituted their uniforms; and a thorough coating of dust over all, and covering their huge beards gave them a savage appearance. Their horses ranged from little mustangs to large American full-bloods, and were every shad and color. Each man carried a rifle, a pair of pistols, and...two of Colt's revolvers; a hundred of them could discharge a thousand shots in two minutes. And with what precision the Mexican alone can tell. I watched them closely as they went silently by me, and could distinguish no difference between the offices and men. They carried no sabers.

Another member of the Indiana Volunteers, Lt. Colonel Ebenezer Dumont, was also there and wrote the following:

They rode, some sideways, some standing upright, some by the revers flank, some faced to the rear; some on horses, some on asses, some on mustangs and some on mules. Here they came, rag-tag and bobtail, pell-mell, helter skelter. The head of one covered with a slouched hat, that of another with a towering cocked hat, another bare-headed whilst twenty others had caps made of the skins of every variety of wild and tamed beasts...

A nobler set of fellows than these same Texans tetterdemalions never unsheathed a sword in their country's cause or offered up their lives on their country's altar. Young and vigorous, kind, generous, and brave, they have purposely dressed themselves in such a garb, as to prove to the world at a glance that they are neither regulars nor volunteers common, but Texas Rangers-as free and unrestrained as the air they breathe, or the deer in their own native wildwood. Many condemned them on sight, for the world is prone to judge a man by his coat. But by correct deportment and marked propriety during their stay at this place they won rapidly upon the esteem of those who had condemned them in advance.

Don't throw rocks

But the Mexican population soon learned the Ranger were not to be trifled with.

As they entered Mexico City they drew a crowd and a bystander decided to throw a rock at the Ranger column which knocked the hat of one Ranger to the ground. Retaliation was as instantaneous as the muzzle flash of a Colt pistol and the thrower fell dead. Without a word the Ranger leaned in his saddle and picked up his hat and continued riding. The lesson was slow to sink in and a few blocks later another rock was thrown with the same result. The eyewitnesses reported the only sound to be heard besides the two gunshots was the sound of horses hoofs on pavement and the creak of saddle leather. The Rangers had arrived.

A Colonel in the U.S. Army who had seen the Rangers fight around Puebla wrote:

Hays men entered the city of the Aztecs and approached the Halls of Montezuma... the subject of universal curiosity. The sides

of the streets were lined with spectators of every hue and grade, from a major general of the North American Army to a Mexican beggar. Quietly they moved along. Not a word was spoken. They seemed unconscious that they were the observed of all observers. The trees in their own native forests would have attracted as much of their attention as they seemed to bestow on upon anything around them. They seemed to say "We have seen men, and have been in cities before."

They became known as the Los Diablos Tejanos – The Texas Devils – and a correspondent from the *New Orleans Picayune* wrote:

As the gallant Rangers filed through the streets, covered with mud and dust accumulated on their long journey, it would have done you good to see the Mexicans stare, particularly when they were informed that these were the much dreaded Texans or Tejanos. Dressed as Rangers always are, in anything that comes to hand—some with blankets draped around them, and some in their shirt sleeves – but all well mounted and well armed, they presented a sight never before seen in the streets of Mexico, and the usually noisy leperos (beggars) were as still as death while they were passing. The gallant Jack hays appeared to be the object of peculiar interest, and the better informed class of Mexicans were particularly anxious to have pointed out to them the man whose name has been the terror of their nation for the past twelve years.

That same evening as several of the Rangers were filing into a theatre a thief ran up and stole a valued handkerchief from a Ranger pocket and met the same fate as the earlier rock throwers. Later they dined at the Inn of the National Theater and their waiter studied them carefully before asking from which part of the Estados Unidos they came from.

"Somos Tejanos," we are Texans came the reply. The waiter dropped his tray and ran from the room. As confrontations between the Texans and local citizens became more frequent Colonel Hays was called before General Winfield Scott, the top American commander.

"I have been informed, sir, since the arrival of your command in this city, two Mexicans has been killed. I hold you, sir, responsible for the acts of your men. I will not be disgraced, nor shall the army of my country be, by such outrages. I require you, sir, to say whether my information is correct, and if so, you will render me a satisfactory explanation," Scott said.

To which Colonel Hays responded, "Your information is correct, General, the Texas Rangers are not accustomed to being insulted without resenting it. They did kill two Mexicans as I entered the city, and I, sir, am willing to be held responsible for it."

Hays the proceeded to give the General some background on why his men had volunteered for service in Mexico, covering the fall of the Alamo, the massacre of Texas troops at Goliad, and the execution of members of the Mier Expedition by the Mexican army who were forced to draw beans from a jar to determine who would live and who would die – a black bean meant the firing squad.

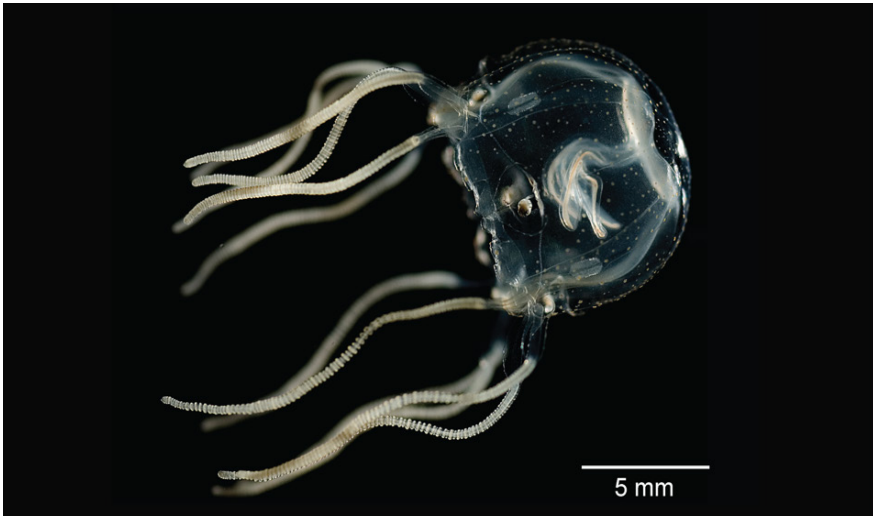
The matter was settled, the Rangers were in town.

Dale Rankin



Learning Without a Brain

You would think it's necessary to have a brain to be able to learn new things. But at least one brainless marine creature has shown scientists otherwise. For the first time, a jellyfish recently revealed its ability to learn from experience. Scientists shared their results of an experiment in which a Caribbean box jellyfish learned to identify and avoid obstacles.



Caribbean box jellyfish are quite small and are able to learn to maneuver around the mangrove roots they live among. Credit: Jan Bielecki CC BY-SA 4.0

Caribbean box jellyfish are tiny—one of the smallest jellyfish in the world. At barely the size of a blueberry, these cnidarians live among the mangroves of Central America and eat plankton. But they have remarkably sophisticated vision, with 24 eyes that help them maneuver the murky waters around mangrove roots to hunt their tiny crustacean meals. Their nervous system is dispersed throughout their body but they have no brain to process information received from their eyes and other sense organs.

Because these jellies are good navigators, scientists focused on this skill to see if they could apply knowledge from past experience to a new challenge. The researchers decorated a round tank with gray and white stripes to mimic the look of mangrove roots. Then the scientists watched a Caribbean box jellyfish swim through the tank for 7.5 minutes. At first, the jellyfish repeatedly bumped into the gray stripes mistaking them for distant roots. But eventually, the jellyfish began avoiding the gray stripes. In fact, by the time the experiment ended it pivoted away from the gray stripes four times more often than it did at the start and it hit the wall half as often. This is known as associative learning, where animals link sensory experiences—in this case, visual and touch—to behaviors. These findings raise questions about what other brainless creatures can learn too.



www.ScienceAndTheSea.org

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Padre Pyramid vs Prairie Pyramid,
Weird and Wacky



Prairie Pyramid

Padre Pyramid

The Prairie Pyramid is located inland, along the N-S axis of the North American Continent, about 1000 miles north of the Great Pyramid of Cahokia.

The Padre Pyramid is located on the ocean, also along the central axis of the North American Continent, but about 1000 miles south of the Great Pyramid of Cahokia.

The Prairie Pyramid is a relic from the Safeguard Ballistic Missile Defense system. Decades ago, our leaders tried to provide for our well-being with nuclear deterrence. The structure was designed to withstand waves of really big weapons.

The Padre Pyramid is a relic from the Bob Hall Pier system. Decades ago, our leaders tried to provide for our well-being with a place for recreation and inspiration. The structure was designed to withstand waves of really big waves.

Boat Show & Market Days

Saturday March 23rd & Sunday March 24th, 2024

Buy, Sell, or Trade

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Sunday

Hosted By Padre Island Yacht Club and Gulf Coast Marine

* Daily Entrance of \$2.00 (Fee to be donated to the Island Fireworks display)
* 13403 Whitecap Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78415

Registration for Vendors - Scan the QR Code, click registration



Windsurfers were tearing it up on the beach this week. Photo Dale Rankin

Sports

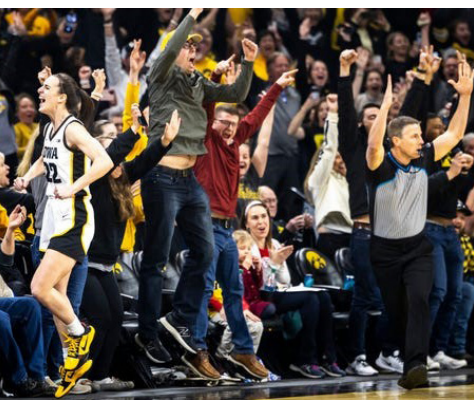
Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

Women's NCAA Tournament Will Outshine the Men



By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: Thanks to Caitlin Clark and other women's star players and programs, NCAA tournament drama this March is decidedly on one end of the gender divide. One tournament is going to feature the NCAA's all-time leading scorer who shoots deep step-back jumpers like Steph Curry. The other tournament's main character will be a 7-foot, 4-inch center who has made one three-pointer in his entire career. One tournament is going to test whether this decade's dominant program can become a dynasty. The other is going to be a roulette wheel of flawed and undependable teams. One tournament is going to have an abundance of attitude, social media personalities and sideline fashion. The other will require a cheat sheet to identify most of the relevant players and coaches. Thanks to Dan Wolken, Bill Morgan and USA Today for the facts and photos contained in this report. Recently, Iowa's Caitlin Clark made official what has long been fait accompli: She's the greatest, most creative, most exciting and most prolific bucket-getter the women's college game has ever seen. And with March fast approaching, her milestone underscored what also should have been obvious. This year, the women's NCAA basketball tournament is going to turn the Madness on its head.



Three years ago, the NCAA took a boatload of criticism, much of it well-deserved, for treating the women's tournament as an afterthought. Now? The men might as well get used to being the opening act. Thanks to Clark and South Carolina, Kim Mulkey and JuJu Watkins, Angel Reese and Paige Bueckers, the star power and drama this March is decidedly on one end of the gender divide. Few events in sports can eclipse the spectacle of a men's Final Four. This year, it's almost certainly going to happen on the very same weekend. What's a more compelling story: Can Dawn Staley lead South Carolina to an unbeaten season, or can Purdue finally beat a No. 15 or No. 16 seed? What's a bigger draw: Watching Clark fill it up from anywhere on the court, or Zach Edey parking himself in front of the rim and seeing how many times he gets fouled? What's more made-for-TV: The garish Mulkey and her reality show of a basketball team trying to go back-to-back, or Dan Hurley and UConn suffocating opponents just like they did last year? The men's tournament is going to be great. It always is. There will be upsets and dramatic finishes and new stars who emerge, like that little point guard from Kansas State last year. What's his name again? Admit it: It took you a second and maybe a Google search to come up with Markquis Nowell. The beauty of March is that there will be another Nowell type this year and the year after. Especially in this era, when college basketball's regular season appeals to a relatively small number of die-hards compared to what it used to be. The fun is in watching and discovering these teams when put under a totally different kind of pressure. Iowa's Caitlin Clark is transformative, just like Michael Jordan once was.

We learn as we go, and it all feels a little bit random. The college basketball experts will tell you they knew how good Florida Atlantic was last season, but let's be real: When the tournament began, most people who care about college sports couldn't have identified a single player on the roster or named the coach. Suddenly you look up, and it's playing in a Final Four. That's great theater, and men's college

basketball really needs it. These days, the most-talented players are either playing in college for one year or not at all. Many who stay in college end up changing teams once, even twice. The superstar coaches who spent decades dominating the tournament, like Mike Krzyzewski, Roy Williams, Jim Boeheim and Jay Wright, have either headed to retirement or, in the case of John Calipari and Tom Izzo, aren't the forces of nature they used to be. It's still a good product; it's just more emotionally disconnected from the average fan. The players are largely unknown and most of the coaches don't inspire strong feelings. Does anyone have a strong feeling, positive or negative, about Jon Scheyer or Tommy Lloyd?

This year, though, the women's tournament is serving up storylines on a silver platter. The friction, the controversy, the dynamism — it's so one-sided, CBS executives have to be a little bit jealous that their billion-dollar investment into NCAA basketball doesn't even get the biggest stars of March on their airwaves.

Instead, ESPN and ABC will have the privilege of showing the country whether Clark can drag Iowa back to the championship game. And unlike last year, when it felt as if people were just learning about her or watching her for the first time, now she has a fan base, and haters, including former stars like Sheryl Swoopes. Whatever she does in the tournament, good or bad, is going to be talked about and covered this time like LeBron James trying to win his first title in Miami.

Dawn Staley, one of the most celebrated players and personalities in the history of women's basketball, already has two titles at South Carolina. She looked like a near-lock to get No. 3 last year until Clark's 41 points overwhelmed the Gamecocks in the semifinals. Now, South Carolina is again on the unbeaten track at 24-0 and blowing out pretty much everyone. Can it finish the job this time?

Besides Clark, the women's tournament is going to have another virtuoso performer in Watkins, who might be having the best freshman season in the history of the sport for Southern California at nearly 28 points per game.

UConn may have slipped just a bit, Geno Auriemma is title-less since 2016, but there's still a familiarity to seeing the Huskies in big games and a sense of real conflict with historic implications when they play the other superpowers. And then there's LSU, which on paper should have been a better team this year than last, when the Tigers won a surprise title in Mulkey's second season. Instead, LSU has had a weird year with Reese missing four games early in the season for unspecified off-court reasons, and a few surprising losses that have raised questions about whether this team came back with the right focus and intensity. Love her or hate her, though, Mulkey usually has her team ready to play in March, and will give us all plenty of sound bites and over-the-top outfits along the way.



Dotson's Other Note: These are all things we can look forward to before the bracket even comes out. Sorry, but the men's tournament this year just can't compete with that. It's been a good, long run of men's March Madness being the big show and the women fighting for scraps of attention. This year, the script is going to flip.

Islander Ryann Phillips Earns Spot on 2024 Summer Olympics Team



Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is thrilled to announce that Islander Ryann Phillips has earned a spot on the USA Trap Shooting team in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Last week she took part in Olympic trials in Tucson, Arizona. Trap shooting is a sport that involves shooting at flying clay targets from different angles with a shotgun. She is one of two women who will be competing for the United States. "I'm very thankful to those around me for the support they have given me," Phillips said. "This is an amazing experience I never could have done without them." Phillips, who is from the small town of Gail,

Texas, began her trap shooting career in the third grade after she was introduced to the sport by her mother, who previously trained in the sport. Her longing for a supportive campus community is what led her to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Since TAMU-CC does not have a trap shoot team, Phillips does her best to take advantage of her free time on the weekends to travel to the nearest training practice range, located in Kerrville, about 200 miles from campus.

The Paris Summer Olympics kicks off on Friday, July 26, with the opening ceremony.



This event is being held at the Yacht Club on Padre Island this Saturday and Sunday (23rd-24th) at 13403 Whitecap BLVD!

We will be on location with our Old Town Sportsman kayaks including: the PDL pedal drives, Minn Kota models, and the ALL-NEW electric/PDL hybrid known as the "e-PDL".

We also will have some SUPs and Ocean Kayak recreational models available to DEMO as well, including two-seater kayaks and GLIDE paddleboards!

Don't be afraid to swing in to the shop on your way to or from the Island! We are stocked in NEW Spring24 swimwear/footwear/apparel and have recently received new surfboard shipments from Firewire, Channel Islands, Almond, and Hank Warner!

We are conveniently located in Flour Bluff! Call 361.937.9283 for more info!

This is a family-friendly event! \$2 daily admission, with fees being donated to the Island holiday fireworks!



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

This weather is not conducive to getting any fiberglass work done on the skiff. Hopefully this is old man winter’s last hurrah, and we can get into a proper spring where everyone’s allergies go off the rails with cedar and oak pollen. At least this cooler weather is keeping the mosquitos at bay, but just like when the monkey got his tail cut off, he said “it won’t be long now.”

One thing that I wanted to circle around was the Island Garden club and their efforts to keep Ulberg Park (and other areas like MaryAnn’s Way) beautified and not looking like a complete wasteland (which is what it was for years and how I remember it the last time I was there.) The short story is that the garden club is doing what they can do, but they’re not getting a desired level of help from the city. The Adopt-a-Park program isn’t that citizens take over complete maintenance of a park, which is why I think so many groups are reluctant to enter into an agreement with the city parks department. These ladies (some of whom need ADA access) don’t have mowing/edging equipment, trucks to dump cuttings, access to hose bibs, and can’t replace the asphalt on the walking trail. Those are things the city is still responsible for and should be. Different parks have different needs, and some are too much for a weekend group. The Adopt a Park program is geared towards scheduled clean ups, planting trees, and other landscape enhancements. The things above and beyond just mowing. The city has historically had issues with funding park maintenance, and it typically takes a back seat during public comment to streets, which are a priority of most constituents. Except in the case of the Riley P Dogpark, which is still a priority but has been pushed back yet again by the city on a technicality. The saga of unfulfilled promises continues. And now what’s going to happen with Commodores Park when that gets up and running? That park is supposed to have a lot more moving parts, and we need to think about maintenance costs in the future. Through the magic of deadlines, I wasn’t able to include the latest and greatest Commodore’s layouts that were presented

the other day at a quick public meeting, but they will be in the paper next week. Thanks to all Islanders who take their time to help keep the Island as beautiful as possible, and without their efforts this would be more of a drab place.

The speckled trout regulations will change from 5 fish from 15-20” to 3 fish from 15-20” or something like that. I can’t keep up with the changes, and it’s not like I’m fishing anyway with the weather and the skiff being down. Anyhoo, the TPWD is still trying to figure out their bonus “trophy trout” tag system and are taking online comments until March 27th. Currently, TPWD has proposed a one-a-day fish over 30 inches that will be a part of the new bag limit, and then they were going to make it one per angler in August. It’s kind of a mess, and not sure how it’s all going to shake out. I had originally been vocal for a trophy trout tag, but now that we are into implementation of said tag system, I don’t know the best way to go about this. I’m thinking the idea of one fish over 25” per day as part of your daily bag limit might have some merit and not have to deal with a paper tag. I don’t know.

Speaking of TWPD, there have been some changes with the Artificial Reefing Program (ARP) lately. I’d like to welcome Marybeth Weihbrecht as the new mid and lower coast reefing coordinator. We want to thank Emma Clarkson for her time in the program and look forward to working with Marybeth. I got to visit with Dr. Yaskowitz the other day at the CCA banquet, and he’s going to circle the wagons from his side and hopefully get together another symposium in the next month or so. Stay tuned.

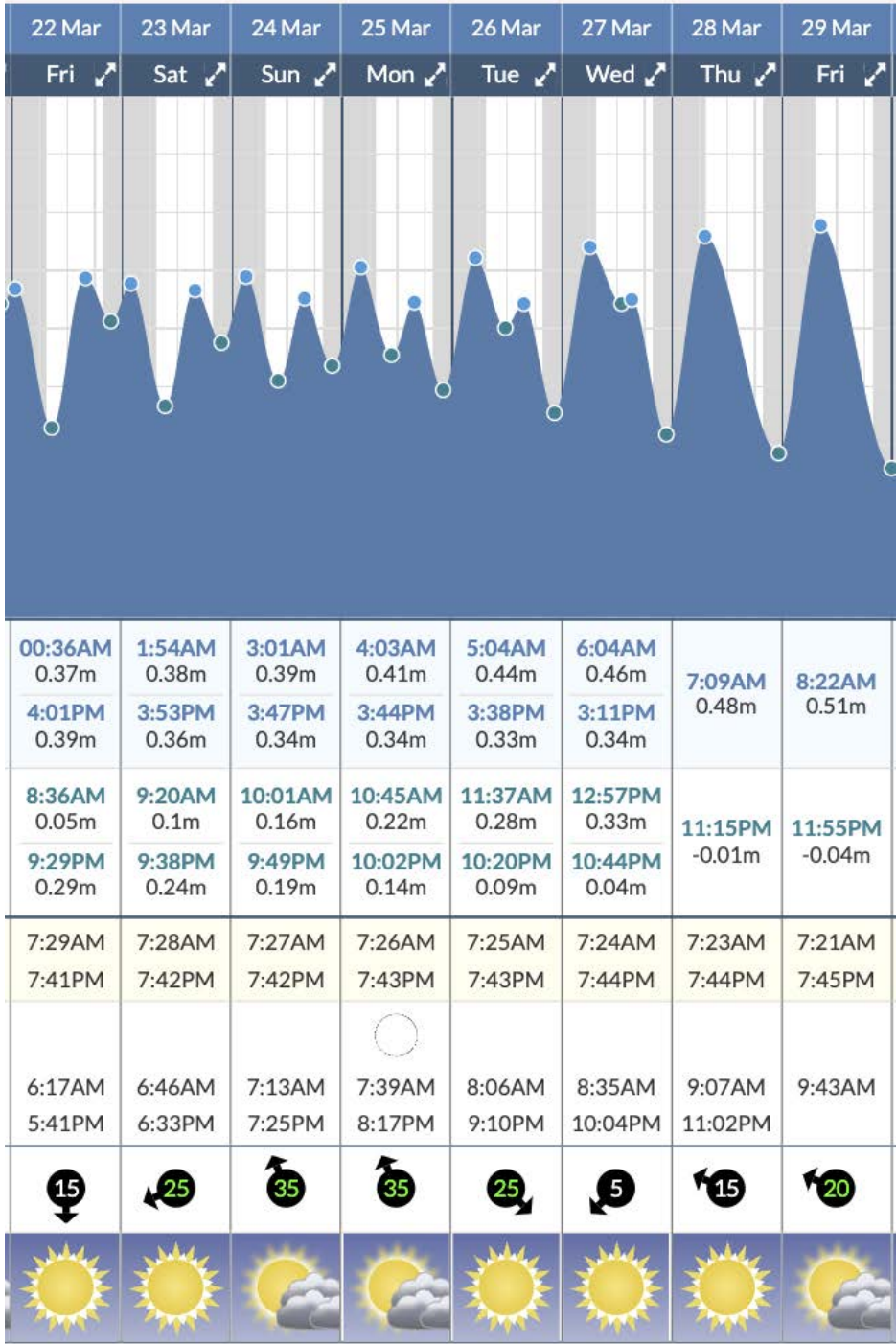
Well folks, the beach crews are still busy cleaning up the disaster from all the beach goers from the last hurrah at spring break. The city has re-opened the applications for the Island Strategic Action Committee, so get online and fill that out if you are so inclined. The water under the Don Patricio bridge continues to flow at and below speeds that were predicted and looks nice and green. Drop me a line at tarponchas-er@mail.com and well see you next week

On the Rocks.



Speckled Trout Print by Islander Mardi Ros

Tides of the Week



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



This nice trout came from the flats just south of the JFK a Causeway. The new Don Patricio waterway has been emptying gulf flow of water and fish straight into the Lagoon.

Spring Flow!

Baffin Bay

This week we received some big spring bull tides with Tuesdays Equinox. Our flow has been predominantly from the north and northwest, mid to late March this normally changes. When we start getting the northeast and southeast winds, we start seeing an influx of tide from the Gulf. This is when we start receiving the flow of tide, bait, and game fish from the south end of our fishery.

Land Cut

The Land Cut is a magical place far far away. It’s a special channel that links the southern Laguna Madre with the Upper Lagoon. It is a funnel between two of the best bay systems on the entire coast. When we get our spring push it can be a highway of all things.

I love working the edge of the channel with soft plastics and topwaters, each cast could hook into a redfish, trout, flounder, even tarpon, Jack fish, and snook I’ve seen here. Monster trout cruise the beach in sight of us, while we try to make precise casts to these tailing giants. There are channel intersections and blow outs along the edge that attract gamefish to this structure. The piers and docks of the cabins are also some obvious but seldom fished target structures. Flounder will be rolling in in April and stay under these docks. The black drum are still in their high point of the spawn and very abundant here in the Land Cut but will be moving into the shallows in April. Anchoring up in the channel and casting to the edge of the channel along the grass is the most popular for most and for good reason. The flow of the channel makes a highway of gamefish. When winds are light one must move up and down the channel in small moves to surprise gamefish that are not moving but stationary.

The edges of Baffin Bay have been heating up with our flow of fish from the north the last two months and now from the south. These fabled waters are the destination of many spawning gamefish and bait species. They will move in with these big tides and spread out to all reaches of the back bays. With every warm day and southeast winds we take our steps closer and closer to summer time. I’m ready.

Marker 37 Marina Report

LIVE SHRIMP IS HERE!

Live shrimp on the bottom along the ICW is an easy and very effective way to land yourself into good fishing. Spots along the channel south of the Whitecap canals where small channels empty into the channel have held all species of gamefish. Live shrimp under popping corks are the best for drifting over the spoil islands along the ICW south of Bird Island, use a 2-3’ drop under the cork. There are still some great boat slips ready for you and your family to enjoy this year. Just step out of the car and into your boat and take off. Gas, bait, fish cleaning, food, and drink along with the cleanest marina on the Texas coast every day with smiles.

Follow and like all of our fishing on FACEBOOK AT JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING! Just give me a call with any questions or help building your own adventure.
361-442-8145



This fine Sow Trout I caught and released along the West Shoreline last week ate a DOA 5.5” DOA JERK SHAD.

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Nature Notes

Rain make the flowers grow

By Rebecca Bracken



Bluebonnets at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary.

Photo by Celeste Silling

It's springtime in Texas, which means it is time for spring flowers! We may not have enjoyed all the thunder and flooding of the past few weeks, but our plants will appreciate the extra water. With much of Texas in a draught the past few years, all this rain will not only help our aquifers but will also help our flowers, trees, and shrubs grow again.

Across the state we've already been seeing Indian Paintbrushes. Technically, the species we see is the Texas Indian Paintbrush, which is a member of the Figwort family. Figworts are commonly found in temperate climates, including tropical mountains. Some members of the Figwort family have medicinal uses, but the Texas Indian Paintbrush isn't known to be one of them. The paintbrushes are found in grasslands, open forest clearings, and roadsides.

The Indian Paintbrush is a unique plant called a hemiparasite or root parasite. Its roots grow until it reaches the roots of the surrounding plants, commonly grasses, and then it penetrates the neighboring roots with root tubes to obtain nutrients. Paintbrushes that have roots attached to another plant tend to grow better than one that grows on its own, which makes transplanting paintbrushes difficult. Instead, if you want to grow paintbrushes, plan to pick a dried paintbrush at the end of the season and shake the plant over a piece of paper; fine seeds will come out, which can then spread where you'd like them to grow. The seeds will grow in a variety of soils. If you aren't sure how to collect the seeds, head to your local nursery for advice!

While we don't see them as much here as we do in central Texas, we are starting to see Texas Bluebonnets emerge! The blue-

bonnet, which is actually a collective name for multiple species, is the state flower of Texas, and as most native Texans know, it is easily recognized and enjoyed. Texas Bluebonnets are commonly found along roadsides and in uncultivated pastures. It is a member of the Pea family, and tends to grow in clusters. I remember heading out each year as a child to take a picture in the bluebonnets with my brother. It was a yearly tradition, until we sat in a fire ant pile that was hiding among the flowers!

Many garden clubs plant bluebonnets in neighborhood gardens and along highways, making them a highly visible and distinctive flower. In fact, bluebonnets have become a kind of floral trademark for Texas since two of the main bluebonnet species are found growing naturally in Texas and nowhere else. It grows incredibly well in well-drained soils, and in areas that do not receive an overabundance of rainfall. It also grows well in raised flower beds, hanging baskets, and wooden barrels, making it an excellent choice when adding a pop of color to your garden!

There are many other flowers that we see around Texas in the spring, but these two have always been my favorite. I've spent many springs away from Texas, and to me, nothing compares to a Texas spring. The abundance and diversity of flowers, from the paintbrushes and bluebonnets to Mexican Hats, Pinkladies, Bluebells, and Lantana and Verbena, is unique to Texas and a sight we cherish every year. I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the spring weather and flowers, and remember, leave no trace! Take only pictures, and make memories, but leave the flowers behind for others to enjoy.



American Red Cross Month

State Representative Todd Hunter



March is American Red Cross Month which is a nationwide initiative aimed at raising awareness for the humanitarian programs and services provided by this organization. As such, I would like to highlight the many ways the American Red Cross makes an impact in communities across the world as well as to share ways you can get involved.

Founded in 1881, the American Red Cross began as an organization dedicated to providing first aid, water safety, and public health nursing programs which are services it still offers today. However, the American Red Cross grew exponentially during World War I by expanding its outreach to include military medical and disaster relief efforts and became the organization we currently know it as today. It was also during this time that the Coastal Bend Chapter of the American Red Cross received its charter. Today, the local chapter serves more than 19 counties throughout our region including Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Duval, Goliad, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, McMullen, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Wharton, and Victoria.

According to the organization's website, the American Red Cross offers support and resources to five key areas:

- Disaster relief: It is estimated that the American Red Cross volunteers respond to over 60,000 disasters annually. These disasters include hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires, transportation accidents, and chemical spills. In the aftermath of such events, these volunteers help by collecting donations, operating shelters for displaced families, and coordinating medical and emotional support for those in need.

- Lifesaving blood: The American Red Cross realizes the need for blood donations. Through blood drives the Red Cross helps save lives all over the U.S. To learn more

about donating blood and to learn the facts of blood visit the American Red Cross website.

- Health and safety education and training:

The American Red Cross helps prepare individuals and communities to manage emergency situations through health and safety education along with training services. Locally, the Coastal Bend Texas Chapter offers Red Cross CPR and AED certification, first aid classes, lifeguard training, and swimming and water safety instruction. More information about how to participate in one of the educational trainings offered by American Red Cross can be found online here [American Red Cross Training](#).

- Support for members of the military and their families: Another core function of the American Red Cross is providing support for members of the military and their families. A way this is accomplished in our area is by helping service members return to their families during times of emergency. From the first day of deployment, service members and their families are eligible for Red Cross assistance. All Red Cross services are provided at home and overseas instillations, which bring comfort to thousands of families.

- International relief and development: Internationally, the American Red Cross provides humanitarian services to nearly 192 countries across the globe. These outreach efforts include disaster response, helping to reconnect families separated by crisis, and providing vaccinations for diseases such as measles and rubella. There are nearly 13 million volunteers worldwide.

Whether it is through volunteering time, donating blood, or offering financial support, I would like to encourage you to mark American Red Cross Month by exploring the ways you can get involved with this important organization. You can reach the local American Red Cross chapter at 361-887-9991. To learn more please visit [American Red Cross](#).

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

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

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



Islander Eric Ozolins took his daughters to go see the SpaceX launch in Boca Chica last week.

Photos courtesy of Eric Ozolins



Nick Meyer Casting in the tournament last week.
Photo Courtesy of Gary Palmejar.



Donna Ledoux from the Woodland's



Josh Cecot and the kids raise a new flag on PINS. Photo by Nick Meyer



Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

The SandFest in Port A is the largest beach sand sculpture competition in the country. It will be held 9 am - 7:30 pm April 19 - 21. There will be bands on the stage each day starting at 12:30 pm with The Spazmatics the final performance on Sunday. There will be lots of food and crafts vendors plus beer and wine tents. Tickets are \$30 for age 13 and up, \$5 for age 6 - 12 and free for age 5 and under. Tickets can be purchased online. A nice quiet time to view the sculptures is Sunday night or early Monday morning.



The Texas Sealife Center will be doing their first 2024 turtle release on Sunday, March 24th 11 am in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall parking lot.

The **Dr. Mario Martinez** medical facility next to Pelican Plaza will be completed by the end of the year. It will offer primary care services, diagnostic services, med spa and lab. There will be a specialty doctor's office for rent there. It is 9,000 square feet.



The Padre Island Farmers Market will be at Island Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March 21st 4 - 8 pm. There will be many vendors including Holistic Harvest Farms with pure and natural organic CBD products, produce from Elemental Farm in Sinton and produce from Oslo Bay Farm.

Ace Hardware now carries men's "toilettries" such as Mackenzie's fisherman hand scrub that was developed to rid fish smell but is now popular for removing garlic and onion smells plus stubborn stains.



The Amos Rehabilitation Keep in Port A will be hosting a beach cleanup at marker 40 on Friday March 22nd 4:40 - 7 pm in preparation for the turtle nesting season.

The Padre Island Easter Market will be held on Saturday, March 30th at the Island Presbyterian Church 10 am - 3 pm. There will be lots of vendors, a kid's craft corner and photo ops with Mermaid Alva.

St. Andrew by the Sea last Friday "Knights of Columbus" Fish Fry is March 22nd 5 - 7 pm at the Family Life Center. The \$10 cash or check plate has fried fish, French fries, green beans and coleslaw. St. Martha's Ministry will have tables of homemade pastries for \$1. You can dine in or take out. Expect a long line because they do a great job preparing the fish and its a great Island get-together. Sit at one of the long tables and meet other Islanders. Interestingly the church is the only open-air Catholic Church in the world. It was built in 1973.

A Starbucks is under construction next to the IBC Bank on Waldron Road in the Bluff.

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks will be at the American Bank Center on Saturday, March 23rd 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm and Sunday 2:30 pm.

The Whitecap Development Preserve is already seeing wildlife enjoying the Spoonbill Lake. Drone pictures show flocks of birds.



Junior League's 6th Annual CC Touch a Truck will be at Whataburger Field south lot on Saturday, March 23rd 10 am - 2 pm. There will be construction trucks, street services trucks, fire trucks and emergency vehicles. Children will be allowed to explore the vehicles with the operators explaining the equipment. There will be food trucks, vendors and photo-ops with local mascots.



Padre Island Yacht Club Boat Show & Market Days will be on Saturday, March 23rd 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. The boat show by Gulf Coast Marine will feature boats on trailers and in the water. There will be more than 40 vendors and food trucks. The US Coast Guard will conduct free boat safety inspections. Parking is along Whitecap and free shuttles to the event will be provided. The proceeds from the \$2 entrance fee goes to the Island Blast Fireworks Show.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 30th around noon. Times vary according to age groups. There will be face painting, hotdogs, pics with the Easter Bunny, the Padre Island Market and more.

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Women's Basketball team is a #16 seed playing #1 seed USC on Saturday, March 23rd 3:30 pm. It is the first time in the program's history they are going to the Big Dance. They will be playing at Pauley Pavilion in Los Angeles and you can watch the game on ESPN.

Auntie Anne's Pretzels will be opening soon at 5313 Saratoga. It is the largest soft pretzel franchise with a menu that includes mini pretzel dogs, pepperoni pretzels and sweet almond pretzels.



The Annual Padre Isles Property Owners Association meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23rd 10 am at the Seashore Learning Center at 15801 SPID. Paper ballots will be accepted to elect board members by Election Buddy.

The CC International Airport is such an easy airport to pick up friends or family. There is a cell phone parking lot in front of the parking payment building with seven parking spots. When your passenger lands you just leave there to go to the terminal. You can also park in the short term parking for up to three hours at no charge and go inside the terminal and hang out at the restaurant.

Random Stuff

Red Lobster Cheddar Bay Biscuits are my latest tasty find. You simply put the frozen biscuits in the oven for 30 minutes (on the box it says 25-30 but 30 is better.) You mix the enclosed packet of garlic and herb seasoning with melted butter and spoon over baked biscuits. It has been a few years since I have been to Red Lobster so I cannot vouch for how close they taste to the ones you get at the restaurant but I can vouch for their deliciousness. You get two packets of the seasoning so you can bake just four biscuits or use both for all eight.



Easter Sunrise Beach Service

Sunday, March 31st
7:00 AM
@ Whitecap Beach

Join us for the celebration
of the resurrection of
Jesus Christ

Service presented by:
**Island Presbyterian Church
Island in the Son UMC**

Bring your beach chair and coffee.
City of Corpus Christi, TX Beach Parking Permits required.
Well mannered, leashed pets welcome.

**Each church will hold regular Easter Sunday worship
services in their respective sanctuaries at 10:00 AM.**
Island Presbyterian – 14030 Fortuna Bay
Island in the Son – 10650 Hwy. 361

In case of inclement weather each church will meet in their respective sanctuaries.



The Great egret (Ardea alba) is a large, widely distributed wading bird. Like all egrets, it is a member of the heron family; Ardeidae (a family of long-legged and long-necked migratory wading birds) and its close relatives are pelicans. The Great egret is sometimes confused with the Great white heron of the Caribbean, which is a white morph of the closely related Great blue heron. Photo By Riekie Roncinske

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14825 Windward Dr. #219
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13718 Sea Horse Ave 3/2/2 plus bonus room @ 1684sqft. Open floor plan, split bedroom layout, and tile flooring throughout. The backyard boasts a covered patio and ample space for a custom pool. Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



15005 Windward Dr. #216 Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath, 955 sq ft. Cozy courtyard view and walking distance from beach access. **\$299,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



4118 Claudia Dr Selling "AS-IS" Ready for renter. Fresh paint & fridge, stove & washer/dryer. 3/1/1 1/2 blocks from Lookout restaurant. Easy to show. **\$185,000** **Tinker Boos** at 361-563-6641.

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15422 Salt Cay A & D
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14813 Leeward 502
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Waterfront
\$2,600/month

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

13906 Mingo Cay #6
2/2
waterfront complex
\$1,250/month

15442 Cruiser B
3/2/1
\$2,000/month



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



14721 Whitecap Blvd. #294 Island living ready. Fully furnished condo with pretty views. Great complex amenities! **\$194,900** Call **Charlie** 361-443-2499 or **Sam Luarca** 361-765-0390



14213 Cabo Blanco 5BR/4BTH plus two flex rooms @ 2892sqft. Spacious custom built Empire Home with a beautiful outdoor living space that includes a fully turfed backyard. **\$699,000.** Call **Randy** 361-765-9914.



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



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



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Spring Break is now completed with the Island Moon going to the dark side....Darth Vader reads the Island Moon!



Jozy Augs took the Moon for her first trip to the Alamo this week.



The Island Moon in Jaco, Costa Rica . . . Lucky and Riekie Roncinske and granddaughter Elise Stewart visiting from Newfoundland, Canada



Seashore Middle School held its annual induction ceremony on March 7, 2024. Pictured above are sixth grade girls who were inducted and took an oath of commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.



St. Patty's Day at Shorty's. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

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Skipper Tales

Sunrise on Padre Isle
By Bob Skipper

Sunrise on the beach, of the Padre Island shore
Shining its light among the clouds on a cool and cloudy morn.
Treading slowly along the shore, a lovely lady with azure blue eyes
Smiling gently in the dawn, beneath the brightening skies.
Her step is light, her heart is full as she slowly walks along,
And quietly into her mind and soul, comes a heartfelt morning song,
There are no words, only images, of sight and smell and sound,
Moving with her gently, where peace and love abound.
There's warmth, peace, and solace here, in her paradise,
As seabirds' wheel and call, up into cobalt blue skies.
The surf is quiet as it rushes up on the golden sand.
A powerful Prescence to all who come, to feel the nurturing land.
The onshore breezes cool and comfortable, those who come to rest.
To sit awhile and meditate, to learn to stand the test.
Of time in motion but slowly passing for those who walk along
The sands of Padre in early morning and hear its siren song.
The day is breaking quickly as she turns her steps toward home.
Sunrise on Padre Island has become her morning song.
So, turn your steps down to the coast, as sunshine lights your smile,
You'll feel at home as on you walk, during Sunrise on Padre Isle



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American Legion Post 229

The Islander Post

Community Service

By Ken Ames
Community service is at the very heart of The American Legion's core beliefs. The American Legion recognizes that the community is an important part of our American way of life. The members of The Islander Post are dedicated to our Padre Island and Coastal Bend communities. Our members feel the outpouring of support that we get from our locals and love giving back whenever we can. Our members attend veteran funerals, school events, and many other local functions. We help local veterans in need through food drives and providing transportation. We cooked hot dogs for PIN's Easter Egg Hunt and provided and cooked the hogs for the Blue Moon Luau. We took part in the July 4th Parade and the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade. We have attended ceremonies on the U.S.S. Lexington, Wreaths Across America at the Coastal Bend Veterans Cemetary, and Veterans Day Ceremonies at area schools. We have Legion members that are involved in the Corpus Christi Island Strategic Action Committee, Port of Corpus Christi, Nueces County Beach Management Advisory Committee, Padre Island Business Association, Port Aransas Chamber of commerce, Padre Island Yacht Club, La Posada Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Padre Island Neighbors and others. Many are business owners that you likely deal with frequently. They are financial advisors, fishing and hunting guides, travel agents, maritime company owners, realtors, screen printers, Floral Designers and more. Others work for local hospitals, City of Corpus Christi, and Nueces County. They all have a vested interest in this community and want to see it prosper.

Easter hot dogs
This Easter will mark the anniversary of our first public event when Alex Karis asked us to provide and cook 400 hotdogs for the 2023 PIN's Easter Egg Hunt. We went through all our hot dogs in 1 ½ hours and could have served more if we had them. We have been asked back again this year and are upping our count to 600 dogs this time. The hot dogs, chips and waters are complimentary. We will have information on site for anyone wanting to donate to the American Legion. Come out March 30th and have a great time with the kids and stop by and visit us, we'll be set up on the Fortuna Bay Drive side. There will be an Easter Market the same day at the Island Presbyterian Church across the street with lots of local companies selling their products. Stop in to see what they have available and buy local. Be a part
If you are an Active Duty Soldier, Veteran, or family member that would like to belong to an organization that promotes comradery, community service, mutual helpfulness and Americanism, consider joining the American Legion.
If you have an event that you would like our help with, would like to be placed on our email list, or would like more information on joining the Legion, you can contact our Adjutant Stephen Armstrong at Americanlegionpost0229@gmail.com. We also have a Facebook page: American Legion Post 0229 "The Islander Post". Anyone wanting information about joining the American Legion Auxiliary can contact Mandy Margeson at: Mandy.margeson@gmail.com

Holy week and Easter at Island Presbyterian Church

Island Presbyterian Church invites the congregation, our neighbors and friends to join us for our Lent Holy Week services as we approach the cross and the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter. On Palm Sunday March 24th at 10:00 AM, we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The worship service will be marked with our own procession of the faithful, waving palm branches and special music presented by IPC musicians. Palm Sunday starts Holy week and our journey to the cross and the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Thursday, March 28th is Maundy Thursday and at 6:00 PM the congregation will remember Jesus' command to the disciples to serve (Maundy). This service will include the remembrance of the Last Supper of Jesus and the disciples with the service of communion. On Easter Sunday, March 31st, "He Is Risen!", will be the shouts of the people at our ecumenical Easter Sonrise Service on Whitecap Beach. Join the combined Congregations of Island in the Son United Methodist, and Island Presbyterian Churches on the beach at the end of Whitecap to watch the sun come up over the Gulf of Mexico at 7:00 AM. This will be 24th year that we have celebrated Easter at the same place on Whitecap beach. Look for the signs directing you to the beach. Join us in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

with song and communion. Sunrise is at 7:20 AM, so come early to see the sun's first rays come up over the Gulf of Mexico. Follow the parking attendants and please do not block the beach roadway. Bring your lawn chairs, a flashlight and a cup of coffee. Well-mannered and leashed pets are welcome. Beach Parking Permits are required by the city of Corpus Christi. If there is inclement weather each church will move the Sonrise service into their respective sanctuaries. IPC is located at the corner of Gypsy and Fortuna Bay. Be aware that with the beach being wider, there is now traffic allowed in front of the seawall and may be entering or exiting to Whitecap Rd. Also on Easter morning, at 10:00 AM in the church (14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.) we will hold a traditional Easter morning service. The room will be filled with shouts of, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!", as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ with communion, song and triumphal music. The members and staff of Island Presbyterian Church invite all of you to join them on their journey to the cross and the resurrection. For our virtual services go to www.islandpresby.com and click on the dark purple link (Worship Services) where you will directed to a bulletin you can download and links to our Facebook page for "Live Streaming" on Facebook and our ZOOM service.

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Type of track
6. Stinging blow
10. Bit of praise
14. Kegler locale
15. Take on
16. China placement
17. "Cool it!"
20. House vote
21. Where many arrive just to split
22. Fussy couple?
23. "___ She Sweet"
24. Tuning fork's output
26. "Cool it!"
32. Police blotter types, slangily
33. Texas hold 'em holding, perhaps
34. Penultimate letter
35. Vientiane is its capital
36. "Fantasia" dancer
38. Young salmon up to two years old
39. It may have several cups of coffee
40. Retina receptor
41. Letter flourish
42. "Cool it!"
46. Artificial bait
47. Worrysome thing
48. First-stringers
51. Small town
52. PC alternative
55. "Cool it!"
59. Definitely not well-done
60. Word with throat or loser
61. Bat maker's machine
62. Puppies' complaints
63. Clark of the comics
64. Command on 52-Across

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			

Down

1. Duke's daughter
2. Cosmetics additive, often
3. Humerus neighbor
4. Garner
5. They are of mixed origin
6. Japanese religion
7. CEO carrier, perhaps
8. Dada co-founder
9. It can be split
10. Type of roll
11. Applications
12. Eat by candlelight, perhaps
13. Stable fare
18. Start of a counting-out rhyme
19. Certain voice range
23. Mann's "The Magic Mountain" locale
24. Word with fly or speed
25. 17th of 50
26. What the Tin Man wanted
27. Home of Maine's Black Bears
28. Good hand to have
29. Hive activity
30. Condor's nest (Var.)
31. One in a condition of servitude
32. "What's more . . ."
36. Billing unit, for some
37. Heading for a memo subject
38. Wooden pins
40. Good buddies
41. Cuddle together
43. Dental items
44. "Absolutely!"
45. Cross inscription
48. Twisted
49. Chiang Mai citizen, often
50. Holliday partner
51. Capital on the Aare
52. Jeff's sidekick
53. U.S. court star
54. "Half-Breed" singer
56. Word of reproof
57. Long-handled tool
58. Displayed fear, in a way

Police Blotter March 11 - March 19

JFK Causeway to SPID/ Aquarius Intersection

Crimes against Property

13500 block SPID 2 pm March 16
Damage to a Vehicle other than a collision

Disturbances

13200 block SPID 1 pm March 17
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia,
Possession of Marijuana
14000 block SPID 11 am March 12
Public Intoxication/Trespassing

Suspicious Person

10800 block SPID 5 am March 17
11800 block SPID 1 pm March 15
11800 block SPID 6 pm March 13
13500 block SPID 10 pm March 14

Traffic

289 Traffic stops
SPID/Aquarius Dr. 10 am March 16
Crash
SPID/Aquarius 8 pm March 15
Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

14400 block SPID 1 am February 17
Assault
14400 block SPID 1 am March 17
Assault
15100 block Dory 2 am March 11
Trespassing/Terroristic Threat
14000 block Fortuna Bay 10 pm March 17
Assault with Injury

Crimes against Property

13700 block Sea Horse 9 am March 12
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

SH 361/SPID 1 pm March 15
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/
Possession of Marijuana/Possession of a
Controlled Substance
15100 block SPID 8 am March 12
Burglary of a Building
SPID/Whitecap Blvd. 3 pm March 14
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/
Possesion of a Controlled Substance
15400 block Gun Cay Ct. 7 pm March 11
Criminal Mischief under \$100

Disturbances

14400 block Cabana East 11 pm March 16
Noise Ordinance Violation
13700 block Sea Horse 10 pm March 15
Noise Ordinance Violation
14000 block SPID 11 am March 12
Public Intoxication/Trespassing
14400 block Cabana East 11 pm March 16
Noise Ordinance Violation
15800 block Portillo 10 pm March 16
Public Intoxication
14100 block Palo Seco Midnight March 14
Noise Ordinance Violation

Suspicious Person

15800 block Portillo 9 am March 13
SPID/Sea Pines Dr. 4 am March 13

Traffic

243 Traffic Stops
14300 block SPID 9 am March 17
Crash
14300 block SPID 9 am March 17
Crash
14300 block SPID 10 pm March 13
DWI
SH 361/SPID 5 pm March 11
DWI
15800 block SPID 3 pm March 14
Parking Violation
16100 block Poinciana 8 pm March 16
Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico – north to the City Limits

Crimes against Person

15200 block Windward Midnight
March 13
Assault
15000 block Beach Walk Loop 7 pm
March 12
Public Intoxication/Assault by Contact

Crimes against Property

15000 block Beach Walk 4 pm March 15
Trespassing
7200 block SH 361 5 pm March 14
Trespassing
6000 block SH 361 8 am March 14
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
6000 block SH 361 2 am March 14
unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

Disturbances

15800 block SPID 8 pm March 16
Fireworks
15900 block Gulf Beach 11 pm
March 13
Failure to Identify/Public Intoxication
14800 Whitecap 11 pm March 15
Public Intoxication
Whitecap/Gulf Beach 5 am March 13
Noise Ordinance Violation
15300 block Leeward Midnight March 11
Noise Ordinance Violation
15200 block Windward 9 pm March 18
15000 block Leeward 3 am March 17
15100 block Gulf Beach 5 pm March 16
Public Intoxication
15100 block Leeward Noon March 14
15100 block Leeward Noon March 14
15000 block Beach Walk 3 am March

13
6300 block SH 361 10 pm March 16
6000 block Gulf Beach 9 pm March 15
Noise Ordinance Violation
6200 block SH 361 11 pm March 14
Noise Ordinance Violation
6000 block SH 361 9 pm March 12
Noise Ordinance Violation

Suspicious Person

14800 block Windward 11 pm March 14
Wanted Person
15200 block Windward 11 pm March 12
100 block Mariners 8 am March 17
Gulf Beach/Access Road 1E 5 pm march 13

Traffic

374 Traffic Stops
15600 block Gulf Beach Noon March 15
Crash
14800 block Granada 9 am March 13
Crash
15200 Windward 5 pm March 12
Parking Violation
Leeward/St. Augustine 4 pm March 12
Parking Violation
SH 361 Zahn Road 10 pm March 15
DWI
Zahn Road/SH 361 6 pm. March 14
Crash
SH 361/Zahn Road Noon March 14
Crash
9300 block SH 361 1 am March 12
Crash
SH 361/Frontside Dr. 11 pm March 14
Crash
SH 361/Beach Access Rd. 2 10 pm
March 13
DWI
6100 block SH 361 11 pm March 11
Crash
SH 361/Mariners Dr. 11 pm March 11
Crash

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Legal Notice
Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Four Ten Islla LLC dba The Honey Hole, to be located at 948 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas, 78418. Officer of said Corporation is Valerie James; her title is Manager.

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Al-Anon & AA Meetings

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS
The Sunset 7 AA Meetings are held on Monday & Wednesday at 7 PM at:
Island Presbyterian Church
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
In addition AA meetings are held Friday 7 PM and Sunday 8 AM at
The second Gazebo on the Boardwalk behind Brisco King Pavilion

This type of fish is called a Stargazer.
They have venomous, and can cause electric shocks! Be careful out there!

Crossword Solution

L	A	U	G	H		S	L	A	P		K	U	D	O
A	L	L	E	Y		H	I	R	E		A	S	I	A
D	O	N	T	B	E	I	M	P	A	T	I	E	N	T
Y	E	A		R	E	N	O			E	S	S	E	S
			A	I	N	T		T	O	N	E			
	H	O	L	D	Y	O	U	R	H	O	R	S	E	S
P	E	R	P	S			P	A	I	R		W	Y	E
L	A	O	S		H	I	P	P	O		P	A	R	R
U	R	N		C	O	N	E			S	E	R	I	F
S	T	O	P	H	U	R	R	Y	I	N	G	M	E	
			L	U	R	E		O	N	U	S			
A	T	E	A	M			B	U	R	G		M	A	C
W	H	A	T	S	T	H	E	B	I	G	R	U	S	H
R	A	R	E		S	O	R	E		L	A	T	H	E
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Ballots mailed for Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

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

The candidates for the upcoming 2024 Board elections are

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
5:30 PM
Wyndham – Corpus Christi Resort North Padre Island Hotel
15202 Windward Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
Streaming to PIPOA Facebook Page

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Members of the audience will be provided with an opportunity to address the Board during Members’ Comments. Please speak into the microphone located at the podium and state your name and address. Your presentation will be limited to three minutes. Please sign in prior to the meeting with your name, physical address, email address, and the subject to be addressed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

1. RECEIVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT(S)

1. PRESENTATIONS:

1. ACC Presentation – Rick McGinley (ACC Chairperson)

0. Presentation (Enclosed on Tab 2)

1. Bulkhead Activity Report – Jerry Watkins (Bulkhead Project Mgr.)

0. Activity Report (Enclosed on Tab 11)

0. MEMBERS’ COMMENTS (3 minutes, per member)

1. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

1. As Needed

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – The Board will receive a report on important topics from the previous meeting.

1. Next Board Meeting: April 23, 2024

2. Executive Director’s Report (Enclosed on Tab 3)

3. Compliance Enforcement Update

0. Current Open & Closed Violations Reports (Enclosed on Tab 12)

1. CONSENT AGENDA: (Routine items; acceptable without further discussion)

1. Secretary’s Reports:

0. February 27, 2024

i. March 23, 2024

1. TREASURER’S REPORT – FINANCIAL REPORTS: (The Board will review, discuss, and then accept all financial reports, with possible motions.)

1. February 2024 Treasurer’s Report & February 2024 Financial Statements

0. OLD BUSINESS (with possible motions):

1. None

0. NEW BUSINESS (with possible motions):

1. Jackfish Courtesy Dock Repair – Estimates

2. April 2024 Insurance Renewal Quote

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Legal Matters (if warranted)

2. Personnel Matters (if warranted)

3. Contract Matters (if warranted)

4. Appeals:

1. 13982 Jibstay Street

2. 15613 Dyna Street

1. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

1. ADJOURN

National Puppy Day

BBB Tip: Paws for caution – how to stay safe from online pet scams

As National Puppy Day approaches on March 23, many social media users can expect to see a near-constant stream of puppy pictures and videos to take over their news feeds during the day and adorable advertisements for all kinds of pet products. Many consumers may decide that now is the time to add a new furrppfriend to their family. However, not all sponsored advertisements are legitimate, and the puppy pulling on your heartstrings in need of a new home may not exist.

Deciding to bring a new pet into your home is a complex decision, and many people often spend hours of research to find the right breed for them based on all kinds of characteristics, such as temperament, size, and activity level. Whether finding their perfect pet at a local animal shelter, dog breeder, or online posting, it doesn’t take long to form an emotional attachment with their soon-to-be best friend. Unfortunately, scammers are highly practiced in taking advantage of emotions, and online marketplaces are perfect for them to reach a broad audience.

“No matter the scheme, manipulating emotions is one of the hallmarks of a successful scammer,” said Heather Massey, vice president of communications and community relations for Better Business Bureau serving the Heart of Texas. “They know the right picture to use, the right words, and the right trends to leverage throughout the year. They are also very attuned to consumer demand and know what dog breeds people are looking for and what they are willing to pay to get one.”

Pet scams are among the costliest online purchases consumers report to Better Business Bureau, with many victims losing hundreds or thousands of dollars. Within the first two months of 2024, 33 BBB Scam Tracker reports of online pet scams Texas residents encountered totaled \$35,000 in losses. In most cases, complications arise after the pet’s initial purchase while arranging for its delivery through a shipping intermediary. The fraudulent or impersonated shipping company may claim additional fees are required for crates, medications, vaccines, or insurance. Whatever they claim as a reason for the extra cost, they will shift to another the next time the buyer inquires about when they can expect their pet to be delivered. Frustrated with the situation, many consumers who attempt to walk away from the transaction are threatened with pet abandonment.

“Pet scams are one of those situations where two seemingly independent parties – the supposed breeder and shipping company – are actually working together to carry out the scheme,” said Massey. “This creates a scenario where each one is pointing fingers at the other for not disclosing

all the fees. Which serves to only confuse and frustrate the buyer, who is often already emotionally invested in the situation and excited to greet their new puppy.”

To help prospective pet owners steer clear of online pet scams, BBB recommends:

- Research extensively. Take the time to delve into the background of potential breeders or adoption agencies. Ask how delivery is handled before purchasing the pet, and research the reputation of the breeder’s shipping company. Use resources like the Better Business Bureau (BBB) to check for complaints or negative feedback. Look for breeders with a solid reputation and a history of ethical practices.
- Verify credentials. Don’t be afraid to ask for documentation proving the seller’s legitimacy. This includes licenses, certifications, and affiliations with reputable organizations such as kennel clubs or breed associations. Check with regulatory and licensing agencies for the state the breeder is in to see what requirements are in effect, such as the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Verify this information independently to ensure it’s not fabricated.
- Trust your instincts. Your intuition can be a powerful tool in identifying potential scams. If something feels off or too good to be true, don’t ignore those feelings. Avoid any transaction that raises red flags, even if the seller seems persistent or persuasive.
- Insist on video calls. In today’s digital age, video calls offer a valuable opportunity to assess a seller’s legitimacy and the puppy’s well-being. Request a live video call to see the puppy in real time and observe its behavior and surroundings. Legitimate sellers will be transparent and accommodating in providing this reassurance.
- Get everything in writing. Prevent being caught off-guard by undisclosed fees by ensuring the whole process, from the point of sale to the animal being delivered to your home, is included in a written contract. This should include information about the shipping company, expected pickup date, delivery date, and clauses for extenuating circumstances.
- Use protected payment methods. Be wary of any online seller that insists on payment through unprotected methods, such as gift cards or wire transfers. If using a peer-to-peer payment app, take the time to understand what protection policies the platform has in place to prevent misuse by scammers. Avoid sending money to anyone through these systems that require you to take specific steps to bypass protection policies. If you have been the target of a pet scam, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. The information you provide may prevent another person from falling victim to these impactful schemes.

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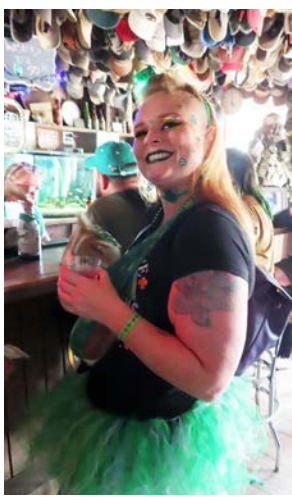


By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
Spring break is broke...



The Festering Den of Sin became deadly this year.

What a trying Spring Break it was this year. Although it's generally organized chaos at best, it got deadly this time. Things started out pretty good I suppose. I went out there early in the week and observed a fair gathering of breakers just getting their bearings at the beginning of the *Festering Den of Sin*. All components appeared to be taking shape as usual. I observed a decent crowd and a fair amount of police presence. The weather wasn't entirely cooperative but that doesn't stop a driven movement. But then the weekend came and we were given the horrible news that there had been a shooting out there and a young man from Ingleside was killed and another from Alice was seriously wounded. So the police cleared the area and instigated the city code of no booze on the beach trying to get a handle on the situation. Then we started seeing the perpetrator's freaky face on the news and that he was still at large and the whole mess just seemed dirty. That's when we heard the news of another shooting and arrest on the beach in Miami and word that they were just done with spring break and were shutting it down and pointing them towards Ft. Lauderdale. It really didn't feel extraordinarily ridiculous in the bars or on the streets of Port A throughout the weekend although I was almost smashed in my golf cart when a car came screeching around a corner on Avenue C where I was coming up on and came at me head-on at high speed. He jerked his car out of the way of hitting me at the last moment. He was being tailed by a couple of DPS troopers at the time. After that we pretty much took my own advice and hunkered down for the most part. I did run out to pole 29 one last time but it just wasn't any fun anymore. Even though we depend on spring break for revenue every year, I for one wouldn't mind it if they went the route of Miami and sent the breakers on down the road next year. I hear South Padre is nice. This is why we can't have nice things.



Summer Miller was rocking the St. Patty's Day Crawl at Shorty's last Sunday.

Scattered shots...

I was diligent last weekend and caught quite a few shows... eleven to be exact. *Bron's* had live music all week with **Bushbullit**, **John Cortez**, **The OTB Band**, **Flying Free** and **Ruben V**. *Shorty's* had a good lineup, too with **Selfie**, **Triptonite**, **Funk Rock Stereo** and **Joey St. Vincent**. And *Treasure Island* had **Carson Miller and the Coastal Cowboys** and the **National Nobodys**. There wasn't a bad apple in the bunch. Then on Sunday the *VFW* had their annual *St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl* and Spring Break was a done deal. BTW, all of those shows were exceptional and I hadn't seen the *National Nobodys* before and really liked their energy. They put on a good show in spite of the fact that they shamed me for taking their picture. Don't they know

who I am!!! I also really enjoyed *Flying Free*. They've been on my radar for a while but this was the first time I'd seen them. They are led by a bright star **Anna Wilson** on guitar and lead vocals. She shines and bubbles with the best of them. Also, I understand she is also an exercise trainer. Whatever, she's got it going on, she needs to keep doing it because it's working. Also, I swear outdoor music venues will be the death of me. It seems that I've been putting on shows on outdoor stages for 40 years. And I'll never get back all the time I've wasted waiting on inclement weather that never happened. This weekend the weather people had us convinced that there was an "83% of thunderstorms" and the possibility of "severe weather" that never happened. I fretted over the rain possibilities and where to put the bands or whether to cancel or not all weekend... and it never rained. We didn't know what to do with Ruben V since he was coming from San Antonio. Shoot me now.



The National Nobodys played Treasure Island last Saturday.

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



Flying Free played Bron's on Friday.

We are officially in the island's "sweet spot" right now. *Spring Break* is done... check. *St. Patty's Day* is done... check. Next up is *Easter Sunday* at the end of March on the 31st and then the *BIG* weekend with *SandFest* April 19-21. And since *Memorial Day* isn't until the end of May, we have a lot of tourist "down time." So until summer gets here we can expect mostly second homers, day trippers and fishermen. So if the weather cooperates, and who knows with the wacky weather patterns these days, we should have a little time to ourselves. The first day of *Spring* was last Tuesday on March 19th so I say, **BRING IT ON!!!** Coming this weekend we have music mainly on just the weekends now. Coming this Friday the 15th the big horn band **Cruise Control** will play *Bron's*, our old pal trop rocker **Aloha Dave and the Tourists** will play *Shorty's* and the funky, funky **Funk Rock Stereo** will play *Treasure Island* for the first time. On Saturday we have the great Latin tinged variety band, the **Palacios Brothers** from Hebbronville will play *Bron's*, the 80's cover band the **Groove** is at *Shorty's* and the **Back Pew Revival** with **Gabriel Fidel** and **Frank Benavides** will play *Treasure Island*. Also on Saturday at the new Port A karaoke bar, *Beach Bums*, the **Journey** tribute band **SA Lights** will perform plus **Coach Dude Dugan** will play our favorite pirate bar, the *Gaff*. And if you're headed into town this weekend, the *House of Rock* has **Diamond's Edge** on Friday and a **Rage Against the Machine** tribute band plus a **Metallica** tribute band at *Brewster's* on Saturday. Be safe out there! Peace out.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Funk Rock Stereo will play Treasure Island on Friday.



The Palacios Brothers will play Bron's on Saturday.



Aloha Dave and the Tourists will play Shorty's on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday, March 22

Aloha Dave & the Tourists @ Shorty's
Cruise Control @ Bron's Backyard
Funk Rock Stereo @ Treasure Island
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Diamond's Edge @ House of Rock
Juan Deers, Palacios Bros @ Vernon's
Fistful of Metal @ Exchange
Matt Hole & the Hot Rod Gang @ Executive Surf Club
Raul Ayala @ Sugar Shack
Dave's Duo @ Doc's
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Alexandra Kay, Dylan Scott @ Brewster Downtown
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Aaron Jacobs @ Cassidy's Pub
Mike Luna @ KBob's
ChillBillies @ Legends
Alley Catz @ South Texas Ice House
Steel Water Band, OTB @ Round Up
Days Ingleside
Billy Snipes @ Big Easy Rockport



**CRUISE CONTROL
PALACIOS BROS
TRIPTONITE
DREAMIN IN COLOR
RICH LOCKHART**

**MAR 22
MAR 23
MAR 29
MAR 30
APR 5**

Treasure Island

**FUNK ROCK STEREO
OTB BAND
JAM BAND
BACK PEW REVIVAL**

**MAR 22
MAR 23
MAR 29
MAR 30**

SHORTY'S

SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

ALOHA DAVE	MAR 22
THE GROOVE	MAR 23
JIM DUGAN, TY DIETZ	MAR 24
BUSHBULLIT	MAR 29
CBDB'S	MAR 30

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Aloha Dave @ Padre Island Burger Co.
Aaron Jacobs @ Tannin's South
ChillBillies @ La Playa by the Bay
David Salinas @ Paradise Key Rockport
Billy Snipes @ Pier 99

Sunday, March 24

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Rich Mendez @ Rockits
Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater
Ruben Limas @ Gully's Bar
Aaron Jacobs @ Xcalibur
Billy Snipes @ Beach Bums

Monday, March 25
Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, March 26
Open Mic w/Rev Matt @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Saul Padron @ Exchange

Wednesday, March 27
Brad Ethridge OPEN MIC @ Gaff
Last show of the season: PA Rockers @ Bernie's
Eli Brown @ Rockit's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Ty Dietz @ Vernon's
Cleartones @ VFW
Ty Dietz @ Vernon's
Dave's Duo @ Katz
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Michael Burtts @ Pompanos
Aaron Jacobs @ South Texas Ice House

Thursday, March 28
Selfie @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Dunebillies @ Reds at Palmilla
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Raul Ayala @ Rockit's
Eric Graham @ Brewster Southside
Jam Night @ Exchange

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