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Issue 977



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 5, 2023

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version available online!

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

Weekly FREE



Photo by John Morris



By Dale Rankin

We can tell when the Winter Texans start rolling in from OTB because we have to restock the Moon newspaper racks twice per week since the first stop for many of them is a Stripes store and grab a copy of the paper to catch up. In years past we have featured Frostbite Betty as our Winter Texan writer up in Frostbite Falls, Minnesota but she and Bert must have gotten lost in the frozen tundra as we haven't heard from her this year.

Not much has changed since you guys left back in March, the JFK Bridge is still down to two lanes but the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle underneath the bridge have expanded their banks and may be good for fishing now, beach parking stickers are still \$12 and available now at the same locations as last year. You will notice a few changes though - and no you are not hallucinating - Bob Hall Pier is in fact gone but the beach walk from the end of the South Packery Jetty to the location where the pier used to be is still the Best Beach Walk in Texas (about one mile), we also have an oyster bar now next to Snoopy's Pier, there is also a new watering hole under the JFK called Packery Bar and Grill which is a great place for bird watching and is also popular with the locals, and if you park your motor home at Balli Park you can only stay three days at a time under the new policy and on the fourth day they will let all the air out of your tires.

The Back Porch in Port Aransas is gone as is Port Aransas' Oldest and Friendliest Shorty's Bar. The Gaff in Port Aransas still has belt sander races on Saturday but they now also have minnow racing with tiny little minnows with numbers on their helmets. The cheapest beer on The Island is at Farah's Water Hole and comes with Local Flavor and Joe Farah stories. As of this week, all gaming parlors in Nueces County must have armed guards at the door so don't be alarmed.

HardKnocks Sports Grill and the Pelican Lounge are still the most popular places to watch NFL football on Sunday but as always watch out for those Cheeseheads! The number of Viking fans has increased substantially since you were here last and for reasons unknown we've gained a lot of Bills and Browns fans who both tend to be rather loud. Bears fans are abundant but tend to be rather quiet due to their teams ongoing stinkage, but remember this is still Cowboy Country.

Daytrips

The most popular day trips are to Progresso, Mexico but as of this week you will have to drive your own self because Paul who ran the Moon Island Shuttle down there decamped for Las Vegas this week and there is no alternative other than to drive. The pharmaceuticals are still cheap as is dental work and there are more places to buy both than ever and the cheapest drinks and food are still at the Red Panty Bar.

There is a new daytrip that has become quite popular and that is heading south to SpaceX and Starbase in the Rio Grande Valley where you can drive right up to a real life rocket ship that looks like something right out of Buck Rogers and if you are a Winter Texan you are old enough to remember who that is. Moon photographer Evelyn Pless-Schuberth made the trip this week and sent us this photo.

That's all for now, welcome back to the nice weather and say hello if you see us Around The Island.

Shallow Packery Channel an Obstacle to Jetty Repairs

Lack of sand disposal permit means wait for the next dredging project



A work barge ran aground and was stuck in two feet of water while entering the channel in mid-2022.



Barges were idle this week due to the shallow water in the channel.

By Dale Rankin

Work on the \$13.5 million project to repair the Packery Channel jetties after Hurricane Harvey has run into an unexpected snag according to work crews, on many days, sometimes for a week at low tides, the work barges cannot get close enough to the jetties to place rocks due to severe shoaling

throughout the channel.

When crews began repair work on the Packery Channel jetty system in January, 2022 the bid from low bidder Callan Marine LTD of Galveston was based on a survey of the channel done in 2017. The assessment of the damage to the channel system by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 assumed

there would be more damage to the jetties due to erosion before work began in 2022 and it was assumed that the original approved bid of \$12.3 million would need to be upgraded to cover the additional damage. In late 2021 the Corpus Christi City Council approved an additional \$2.3 million to cover that cost rais-

Packery cont. on A6

New Rules for Home Elevation causing Flooding of Island Yards

Problem to be addressed through zoning in 2023

By Dale Rankin

When new flood maps were published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) went into effect in 2018 the City of Corpus Christi moved to raise the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for new houses from nine feet to eleven feet above sea level to help reduce flood

insurance costs for homeowners. The new rules adopted unanimously by the Corpus Christi City Council on April 9, 2019, stated the reason for the higher required elevation to be: "The city is a voluntary participant in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Ratings Sys-

tem. This program provides points for going above and beyond the minimum standards of a participating community. The points offer different class ratings which result in premium discounts for flood insurance policies in a special flood hazard area. Adopting higher standards promotes public health, safety,

Flooding cont. on A6



An armada of generators have arrived at the south end of Windward Drive as crews from AEP prepare to begin work on Island power lines.

A little Island history

By Dale Rankin

As the ducks arrive and the guns sound along the Laguna Madre this week we take a look back at the long history of duck hunting on Padre Island as development encroached on what had been open territory for hunting.

The year was 2010 and at the first meeting of the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) held at the clubhouse of the Padre Isles Country Club an Island resident rose to speak to the group.

"I pulled these out of my swimming pool Sunday afternoon," she said, and she opened her palm to reveal a handful of buckshot. "I woke up Saturday morning and thought we had been invaded and when I looked out my backdoor I saw a man about ten feet from my property line blasting away with a shotgun."

The lady was only the first in a long line of Island residents that day and in meetings to come to try and get something done about hunters along the Laguna Madre shooting almost literally from backyards. Other complaints came from hunters at the freshwater ponds strung from Commodores Drive to Sea Pines Drive and the search was on for the

Duck Hunting on Padre Island

*A long and noisy trail...
Decade-long controversy finally settled at City Hall*



Ducks in the Laguna Madre by Miles Merwin

relevant state and city rules as they apply to the balancing of the rights of the hunters and the rights of the homeowners.

A question of the rules
Homeowners near freshwater ponds near the end of Primavera and Sea Pines had complained for years about hunters shooting too near their homes and after a particularly

dry year pushed more hunters into areas near homes Corpus Christi Police officers found themselves caught between irate homeowners, a handful of hunters ignoring the law, and a city ordinance too full of holes to be enforced. As city and state officials began wading through the applicable laws and ordinances

Ducks cont. on A4

News from the PIPOA

The Year at the Padre Isles Property

By Marvin Jones
President

2022 was a productive year for the PIPOA. Here is a list of several PIPOA accomplishments for the year.

- Four boat ramp parking lots were refurbished with new concrete.
- Boat ramps received new docks to help with loading and unloading boats.
- A second bulkhead repair company was added. Thus, more bulkheads were repaired.
- The City agreed to leave the RS-6 single-family zoning prohibiting short-term rentals in residential areas. This was a significant accomplishment for the PIPOA.
- The two monuments were refurbished—one at Aquarius and the other at Sea Pines.
- A new shade structure was added at Billish Park. Playground equipment was replaced at Billish Park and Douden Park.
- New mulch in the playground area for Billish Park.
- A canal inspection program was initiated to identify damaged decks and docks.
- New canal aerators were installed and replaced.
- Canal water testing continued to comply with the requirement of the Army

POA cont. on A3

Cabanas at Packery



The concrete cabanas along the north side of Packery Channel are getting a facelift in 2023. Plans from the city's Beach Management office say the current benches will be replaced with picnic tables and small barbeque pits.



Business Briefs (A slow week after the holidays so expect more Random Stuff, well actually way more.)

Grumpy Old Painter (GOP) is on standby for your next paint job. Mike Wall started his Re-Parrot business when he first moved to the Island but has passed it on to his son Tony while he kicks back and just does painting. Call Mike at 271-9499.

Fishing guide Joey Farah was my go-to for learning where my grandkids can catch any fish even piggy perch. Joey suggested the boat ramp at Packery. He said there are big perch, croakers, sand trout and whiting there.

Advanced Wellness & Weight Loss has a medically supervised program with FDA approved weekly injections that slow gastric emptying and reduces appetite. It is used in conjunction with their healthy lifestyle plan. Call 906-1112 for free consultation.

Aruba Bay Resort is currently taking reservations for the 2023/24 winter. Winter Texans are welcome to tour their units and receive a free gift. Amenities include a great exercise room, morning coffee in the Clubhouse, two heated pools, pickle ball court, fishing along docks, sunset deck at Clubhouse and game room. Call 361-331-0798 for more info.



Singer Vince King sounds and moves remarkably like Elvis. Vince has taken his show throughout the country and has even headlined n Vegas. He named his daughter Presley so you know he takes his tribute seriously.

The Commodore Park plan will be discussed at the next ISAC meeting on Tuesday, January 10th 5:30 pm at the Padre Island Baptist Church. After roll call and minutes are read there will be time set aside for public comment. You have up to three minutes to express what you would like to see at the park. ISAC will take these recommendations for consideration to the City to present to the Parks & Rec. Master Park Plan. I personally would like to see the addition of a skate park and tennis courts.

A Night with Elvis Presley & the Vegas Mafia Band will be performed at the Port Aransas Community Theater on Saturday, January 7th 7 - 10 pm. Tickets are \$25. Call 749-6036 for more details.

This week I have had an earring and my right AirPods fall between my car seat and console. So annoying but there is a solution. There are gap seat organizers.



The Island Moon printing costs have recently gone up 70%. The Moon exists because of our advertisers. If your business, or someone you know, would benefit from advertising in the Moon it would be greatly appreciated. We have thousands of loyal readers and they are especially supportive of local businesses. For example, my recent Ace Hardware Finds of the Week have flown off the shelves. Plus the Moon is read by visitors and tourists because it is at the convenience stores, Dollar General, IGA, local businesses and STR condos. For ad rate info email editor@islandmoon.com.

After having moved here 30 years ago from Chicago I never thought I would need gloves for the winter months. This past freeze I borrowed camo hunting gloves from a friend so I figured it is time. I guess a freeze during our winters is now something we will experience regularly but I did find some cute Italian gloves with a ring.



Why is it taking so long for the house on Cruiser and Whitecap to get built?

We are having some network issues on our Moon computers mainly my computer cannot get on the network. So I am seeking a computer geek to help me out. Call me at 739-6361 or email mkay512@aol.com.

Currently the best credit card available is Wells Fargo Active Cash. You get 2% cash back rewards off all purchases plus no annual fee. The best part is you get \$200 credit if you charge \$1000 first three months.

For those who think these times are economically bad let me fill you in on the 1980s. I received my Optometry degree and my husband and I opened a practice in the Chicago suburbs in a new strip center. We got a \$50K loan to remodel and buy equipment at prime plus 2 which was 11%. Two years later it became 24% and the mortgage we were able to get on our first home which was \$65K was 17.5%. The principle payment each month was about \$9 pretty much paid for a door knob. In other words, it ain't so bad now.

The Padre Island Investment Corporation started the development of the Island in the late 1960s. By 1969 there were 14 homes in Galleon Bay subdivision near the bridge and expanded to 83 by 1975. Although not yet in existence the entire Island had street names given with nautical terms or beachfront destinations like Key Largo. I heard that with the whiskey streets they were sitting around drinking and decided on Crown Royal, Highland Mist and Canadian Mist.



Fairway Estates 1983 future home of the whiskey streets.



Padre Island Investment Corporation accounting office in the 1970s. The Angry Marlin Restaurant is now located there.



1975 aerial

Don't do a rolling stop at Whitecap turning onto Windward - it is a common traffic stop. And yes I know from experience. I've had three warnings.

By the numbers...

Island Traffic

Island traffic has been in the news this week as a traffic study is underway to determine what, if any, the new Whitecap development at the old Schlitterbahn waterpark site may have on traffic numbers and flow.

In anticipation of traffic changes due to the opening of the Schlitterbahn waterpark a traffic study was conducted in the years 2013-2016. The data was gathered traffic counters are various locations around The Island in 2015-2016. The Schlitterbahn park opened in April 2016.

The study was done by Maldonado-Burkett Intelligent Transportation Systems, LLP's who were retained by the City of Corpus Christi to "develop and provide a Padre Island Mobility and Access Management Study. The City of Corpus Christi, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation in their public purpose of planning transportation improvements initiated this study." It is entitled *Padre Island Mobility and Management Study* and here are some of the findings.

2015/2016 numbers

JFK Causeway

- 33,245 vehicles per day arrive on Padre Island over the JFK Causeway
- 40,408 Vehicles per day in July (peak)
- 26,183 Vehicles per day December (lowest)
- 4% increase in traffic each year

Commodores/SPID/SH 361 intersection

- 28,870 vehicles per day enter the Commodores/SPID/SH 361 intersection southbound on SPID
- 9634 (31%) of those vehicles per day turn toward Port Aransas at the intersection at peak
- 20,388 (60%) of those vehicles per day continue southbound on SPID at the intersection at peak
- 9% (172-155) Vehicles per hour turn right (west) onto Commodores Drive from SPID at peak

SH 361 to SPID

- 73% of vehicles that arrive at the intersection from SH 361 turn (right) northbound onto SPID
- 21% Turn southbound on SPID
- 6% Continue west onto Commodores

From Commodores onto SPID/SH 361

- 69% of vehicles coming from Commodores turn north on SPID
- 12% go straight through onto SH 361
- 19% turn south on SPID
- 257-185 Vehicles per hour turn northbound from Commodores onto SPID

State Highway 361

- 9634 Vehicles (average) per day travel from Mustang Island State Park to Port Aransas
- 20,388 Vehicles (average) per day cross Packery Channel traveling northbound
- 9927 Vehicles (average) per day enter Port Aransas on SH 361

Port Aransas ferry

- 6226 Vehicles per day cross (average)



Crews are working to install a second, backup, waterline along State Highway 361 near Zahn Road this week. The line provides water to Mustang Island including the City of Port Aransas. The original line was repaired after damage by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the new line will be a redundant source of water in case of problems with the older, existing line.



Rosetta Spoonbill by Marvin Orellano



Pelican by Marvin Orellano

Moon Monkeys

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



New Causeway

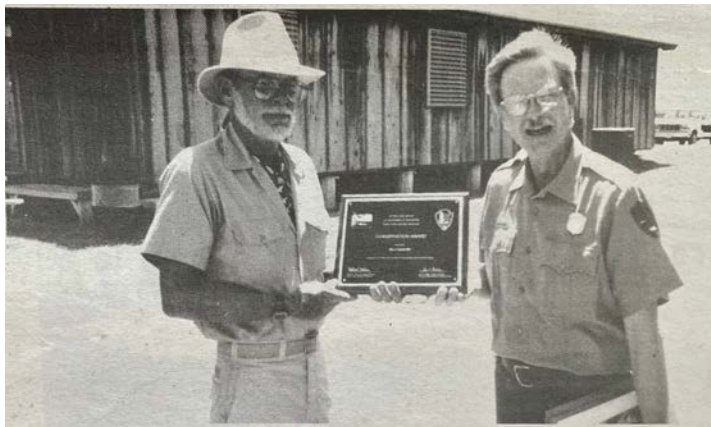
Seems the Powers That Be have decided for all of us the direction of the new causeway constriction (not a typo). Because of the existing road's "success", it seems that everyone wants another SPID.

Ever try to force two rivers into a small stream-bed? The new road with a terminus south near the entrance to the National Seashore (PINS, PAIS), does not alleviate the amount of traffic going to and from Port Aransas on Highway 361. It would only make it worse since there would be two highways (four lanes each) with traffic slowing onto an island with a two lane road exit for a large share of that traffic. So, if that is "The Plan", I think a few billion dollars need to be spent on traffic flow solutions for the intersection of SPID/Park Road 22 and Highway 361. Stop lights for that amount of traffic will not cut it. Start working on that now, too.

Another option is to not have "another SPID" with traffic bound for Port Aransas coming to this island. Have it going to Matagorda Island instead with the terminus on Highway 361. "No, no, no, we have already decided the route!" It would benefit Corpus Christi and Port Aransas (both in Nueces County).
Bob Simpson

A little Island history

A History of the Big Shell Clean-Up From the man who started it!



Padre Island National Seashore Superintendent Pat McCrary (right) presents the National Parks Conservation Award to well know Island fishing guide Billy Sandifer for his contributions to the National Seashore. Sandifer has been instrumental in organizing the Annual Big Shell Clean-up each March and this July also notified seashore personnel of a nesting Kemp's ridley sea turtle in the 4-wheel drive area. (Photo by Russ Tracy)

Editor's note: Billy Sandifer spent over 40 years on The Island and was well known for his expertise as a fishing guide in the Big Shell, as well as a walking encyclopedia on the fish, wildlife and history of Padre Island. He wrote this story in the March 7, 1997 issue of the Island Moon.

By Billy Sandifer

The trash has always been there, or at least all my life it has been there. Year after year, people ask me how I can work surrounded by trash all the time. My answer never changes over the years. By ensuring that none of the trash is mine, nor belongs to anyone whom I take down to the Big Shell; but one couple in particular has haunted my memory for years.

They were of retirement age, they were affluent, having owned and operated several resorts in Arkansas. Their plans were to open up a travel trailer park or two in the coastal area, and I have their offspring to take care of the properties in Arkansas.

When they booked by telephone, they said that they wanted to evaluate the local area and community by going down island with me. I advised them that there was a whole lot more to the community, and the area, than they'd see on a trip into a four-wheel drive area of the National Seashore with me. Their answer was interesting.

The couple replied that every town was just another town and that certainly any local business organization would ensure that prospective investors saw lots of positive aspects of the community – and that was exactly what they didn't want. They were outdoor oriented people, and when not working would be spending a lot of time on the seashore. They were interested in the overall quality of the outdoors locally.

When I picked them up, they were literally bubbling over with enthusiasm. Their grown children loved to fish, and the thought of catching sharks off the beach fascinated them. Several trips to the area during the upcoming summer months were discussed as we reached the area of the four-wheel dive sign. But by the time we reached the 25 Mile Marker the conversation could not be steered away from one subject – the trash, and the long practiced explanations about the convergence of currents in the Western Gulf trash from the offshore and Mexico fell on deaf ears.

Their concern was not from where the trash came, but the fact that it was allowed to remain and accumulate. Their concern was this. How can the local community be blessed with such a wondrous place, and certainly profit greatly financially from its visitors (more than a million I'm told) and feel no obligation for the beach's wellbeing, and take no pride in its appearance?

They stuck to this opinion throughout the day with moods varying from openly angry, to sad, to very disappointed (which was the most common). They paid me, thanked me, and sent me a fruitcake for Christmas. Other than that, they haven't been seen or heard from since, except in troubling memories.

January 1995

In January 1995, I approached the superintendent of the National Seashore about the possibilities of starting a grassroots volunteer

civilian cleanup effort in the Big Shell. After receiving his blessing, I began putting together plans for the attempt.

I addressed a City Association concerning the effort, but came away with the feeling that, in general, they could have cared less and probably felt that my being there was a waste of their time. I felt that I could have gotten more interest had I been a proctologist from Ohio giving a lecture on shingles.

I beat on every door I could think of and called every phone number anyone would give me, seeking support and advice on how to organize and carry out a cleanup. This was most often with no success.

On cleanup one Ranger...

Then the Padre Island National Seashore assigned Ranger Kristy Bosworth as a coordinator. Here previous experience for the Texas General land Office cleanups, her understanding of the ins-and-outs of existing federal guidelines, and her good ole common horse sense proved, and still does prove to be invaluable.

Floyd Strickland, Colonel John Joyce, and several other individuals were trying to help also. Colonel Joyce suggested that Island House might be willing to help and even furnish facilities for a meeting of interested volunteers. And evening meeting was set up and was met with an enthusiastic turnout. Halfway through the meeting I knew we were actually going to pull it off, and we did.

On April 29, 1995 over 300 volunteers in 100 four-wheel drive vehicles picked up 50 tons of trash from the Big Shell area. On March 9, 1996 184 volunteers picked up another 50 tons of trash in temperatures ranging from 36 to 56 degrees Fahrenheit and northeast winds of up to 28 miles per hour. On April 5, 1997, we will do it again.

Without Island House and Russ Tracy there would be no cleanup. Without John Joyce, Tag, Larry Zumwalt, Dick Edel, the National Guard, and Homeport Ingleside's efforts there would be no cleanup. Without the top quality coverage by the Caller-Times Buddy Gough and Dan Parker, we would never have gotten the word to volunteers.

It takes everybody

The lesson I have most learned from these cleanups is that it takes everybody. It takes us, all of us. Those that care about and are concerned for the natural treasure that we have been blessed with. Those concerned with how many visitors to the area see us as a community. Those concerned with the quality of life locally, apart from out profit-margin sheets and square footage of houses.

In my mind, I keep seeing Jerry Choyke at the end of last year's cleanup. Looking half-frozen, totally exhausted, limping to his vehicle, and murmuring that he felt he just had to help. And I see a handicapped volunteer pulling himself along the beach, dragging his trash bag behind him, while picking up trash, because he couldn't walk in the soft sand of the Big Shell.

The Billy Sandifer Big Shell Cleanup is on February 25th this year; we hope to see you there!

POA cont. from AI

Corps of Engineers.

- The PIPOA audit was successful, with no problems found.
- A new Board member was appointed to replace a Board member that resigned.
- Free No-Wake signs made available to members.
- Clean-up of dead fish from December's freeze.
- Derelict boat towed from the PIPOA canal.
- Continued cleaning of debris from canals.

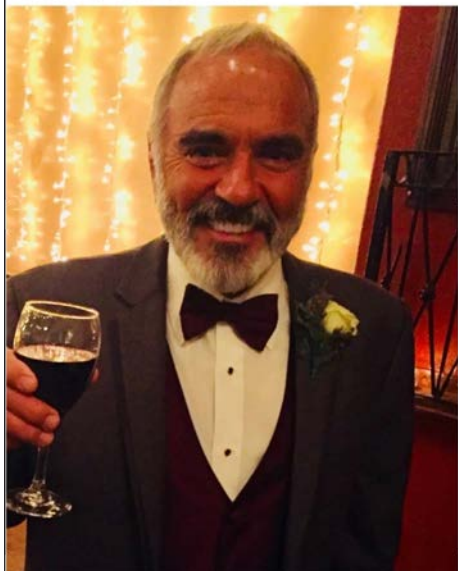
There are many other items the PIPOA continues to work on for the benefit of the members.

John Pezzi, the PIPOA's longtime construction contractor that has repaired PIPOA bulkheads for many years, recently passed away. John will be missed.

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

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

Services for John Pezzi will be Saturday January 7th, 2023. At St Andrews by the Sea. 14238 Encantada Ave, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. Rosary is at 10:30 am and memorial to follow at 11:00 am.



Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

Publisher

Dale Rankin

About the Island Moon

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

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

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

The Island Moon Newspaper

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Senior Moments



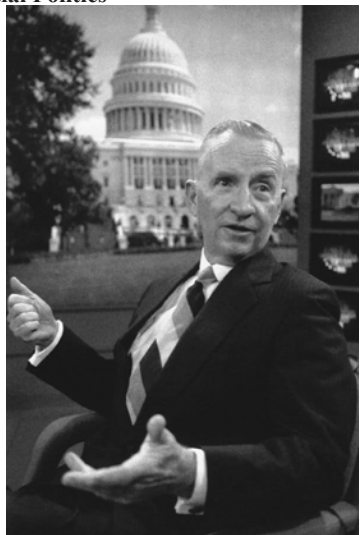
Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Ross Perot-Former Presidential Candidate

Dotson's Note: The former third-party presidential candidate Ross Perot ran in 1992, dropped out at the peak of his popularity, then returned to the race and finished with 19 percent of the popular vote. His run in 1996 was much less successful. Thanks to Robert D. McFadden, Scott Applewhite and Gary Stewart for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan, for the photos.

Moments When Ross Perot Shook Up Presidential Politics



Above, Ross Perot during an appearance on the Sunday morning CBS News program "Face the Nation" in April 1992. At the time, he was discussing a possible run for the presidency as an independent candidate.

Ross Perot, the wiry Texas gadfly who made a fortune in computer services, amazed the nation with audacious paramilitary missions to Vietnam and Iran, and ran for president in 1992 and 1996 with populist talk of restoring Norman Rockwell's America

They called him the man from Texarkana, but he really came out of an era, the Great Depression, World War II and the exuberant postwar years, when boys had paper routes, folks tuned in to the radio and patriots rolled up their sleeves for Uncle Sam and built innovative companies and a powerful nation. "Most people give up just when they're about to achieve success," Mr. Perot liked to say. "They quit on the one-yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game one foot from a winning touchdown."

He was no quitter: an Eagle Scout, a Navy officer out of Annapolis, a top I.B.M. salesman, the founder of wildly successful data processing enterprises, a crusader for education and against drugs, a billionaire philanthropist. In 1969, he became a kind of folk hero with a quixotic attempt to fly medicine and food to American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. In 1979 he staged a commando raid that he asserted had freed two of his employees, and thousands of criminals and political prisoners, from captivity in revolutionary Iran. And in 1992 he became one of the most unlikely candidates ever to run for president. He had never held public office, and he seemed all wrong, like a cartoon character sprung to life: an elfin 5 feet 6 inches and 144 pounds, with a 1950s crew cut; a squeaky, nasal country-boy twang; and ears that stuck out like Alfred E. Newman's on a Mad magazine cover. Stiff-necked, cantankerous, impetuous, often sentimental, he was given to homespun epigrams: "If you see a snake, just kill it. Don't appoint a committee on snakes."

Under the banner "United We Stand America," he spent \$65 million of his billions in a campaign that featured innovative half-hour infomercials about himself and his ideas. They were popular, with ratings that sometimes surpassed those of prime-time sitcoms. Ignoring negative newspaper and magazine articles, he laid siege to radio and television talk shows. Switchboards lit up with calls from people wanting to volunteer. Before long, millions were responding to his calls to cut government deficits, red tape and waste, to begin rebuilding the crumbling cities and to restore his vision of America: the small-town life idealized in Rockwell's homey portraits of ballpark patriotism, barbershop wisdom and flag-draped Main Street, a world away from corrupt Washington.



Above, Mr. Perot, running as an independent, sparred with President George Bush and Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas on Oct. 13, 1992, in a presidential debate broadcast from the University of Richmond in Virginia.

While Mr. Perot had done business with every administration since Lyndon B. Johnson's, the federal government was one of his favorite targets. Washington, he told its own denizens, "has become a town with sound bites, shell games, handlers, media stuntmen who posture, create images, talk, shoot off Roman candles, but don't ever accomplish anything. We need deeds, not words, in this city."

He's Up-He's Out-He's Back In

Probably, he surged in the polls while the Republican incumbent, George Bush, and the Democrat, Bill Clinton, trained their fire on each other. Polls showed that Mr. Perot's support came from across the spectrum, from Democrats and Republicans, Conservatives, and Liberals, mostly from the middle class. Citizen drives got him on the ballot in all 50 states. Also, he was on the cover of Time magazine.

But at the peak of his popularity, he unexpectedly dropped out of the race. Months later, he jumped back in, saying his withdrawal had been prompted by Republican "dirty tricks" to sabotage his daughter's wedding with faked compromising photographs. He did surprisingly well in three presidential debates, often mocking the "gridlock" in Washington. "It's not the Republicans' fault, of course, and it's not the Democrats' fault," he said in the second round. "Somewhere out there there's an extraterrestrial that's doing this to us, I guess."



Above, a portrait of Ross Perot published in the 1949 Texarkana Junior College yearbook. After two years at the college, he won appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

On Election Day, Mr. Perot finished with 19 percent of the popular vote, almost 20 million ballots, compared with 38 percent for Mr. Bush and 43 percent for Mr. Clinton. It was the strongest third-party showing since Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose run in 1912.

Dotson's Other Note: It also led to claims by some Republicans, including the president's son and future president George W. Bush, that Mr. Perot's candidacy had cost President Bush a second term — a contention refuted by many political analysts, who pointed to, among other things, exit polls showing that Mr. Perot's strength had not come disproportionately from defecting Republicans. In retrospect, I believe that it would have been to our advantage if Ross Perot had won the election. What do you Moon Monkeys think? Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewis1@stxrr.com. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11 AM and will resume on January 10, 2023. 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.



Riekie Roncinske



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Dotson's story here reminded me of a time thirty years ago when I was in grad school and H. Ross Perot came to speak to the class at the University of Texas. His topic was Electronic Data Systems which he had founded thirty years earlier along with the town of Plano northeast of Dallas. We were all older students going back for graduate degrees while keeping our day jobs and a couple of my classmates had worked for EDS and knew Perot.

One thing led to another and we all ended up at Scholz Beer Garten where Perot entertained us with stories of founding his company and his company town. He was a famous teetotaler but as I recall he might have been the only teetotaler there and before he left he handed us all his business card with his cell phone number on it. It seems crazy now that someone of Perot's visibility would hand out his cell number to a bunch of people in a beer hall but that's what he did and we all waved him off as he got behind the wheel and drove a billionaire by. Keep in mind he was already a multimillionaire by then and in fact had invested substantially in San Antonio and was already kicking the tires on a presidential run and in fact announced his candidacy on the Larry Show a year later. But that night at least he let his hair down as much as he ever did I guess and seemed to enjoy himself.

Soon after his announcement he was making a campaign swing through San Antonio and I was assigned to interview him at the airport. He was nice about it but it was clear he had no recollection of me but he did remember the evening at Scholz and I asked him if his cell number was still the same, which he answered in the affirmative, and as we parted he told me that if I ever had a question just to call him. Understand that it is a very unusual and dangerous thing for a man of Perot's visibility, presidential candidate or not, to tell a reporter to call him on his cell phone because he certainly won't have my number listed and so he might actually answer; which is what he did a few days later when I called him about his campaign to gather signatures to get on the Texas ballot.

"This is ole Ross"

"This is ole Ross," was his standard phone greeting. "What can I do for you?" You got to like a guy like that who answers his own phone; there was no pretense there. As I mentioned above it is a very dangerous thing for a guy like H. Ross to give his phone number to a reporter, and even more dangerous to answer when the reporter calls.

Perot made frequent stops in San Antonio leading up to the primary and each time he came through it got harder and harder to get past his security which was unique in that it didn't exist until he picked up Secret Service protection as the campaign went on, or at least guys in suits who talked into their cufflinks. He was fond of railing at the Media Elite but one thing he never did was issue press credentials to local reporters. This was in the years follow-

ing Ronald Reagan who began the strategy of only taking questions from local reporters at his whistle stops and Perot wanted the local reporters to show up but his security detail was not so obliging.

So the next time he came through town we local types went to the print shop and had large laminated cards made which we hung on lanyards around our necks which read in capital letters: MEDIA ELITE TOTAL ACCESS ALL AREAS! When we showed up at the airport for the next Perot whistle stop we halfway expected to be detained if not outright arrested by security but instead they seemed somewhat nonplussed and let us right through. Somewhere in a drawer buried under press passes from the state house and a Super Bowl or two and a barn raising I probably still have that thing and who knows what it might get me into now. Mostly trouble probably.

On to Austin

Then in May of 1992 I went to the grounds of the Capitol as Perot filed signatures to get on the Texas ballot. Texas election law at the time required 54,275 signatures to put an independent candidate on the general election ballot and Perot's volunteers gathered several times that many. I walked up to the south end of the capitol grounds like I owned the place and the State Troopers seemed somewhat confused when I flashed my MEDIA ELITE TOTAL ACCESS ALL AREAS! badge and in I went. I don't remember the exact number but there were at least several thousand Perot supporters there that day and I interviewed as many as I could and the thing that struck me was none of them were regular — or even occasional — voters. They had all been brought into the system by the promise of something different in the political world. They liked Perot and went out of their way to register and sign the petition and even make the trek to Austin for the big event. It was a breath of fresh air and it gave some hope that maybe there was a new way to do politics in the country.

But alas, for reasons I was never quite clear on Perot flamed out and dropped out of the race before getting back in and finishing in third place with 15% of the vote, behind George Bush, 36%, and Clinton with 44%. There are those who argued with some validity that Perot's run cost Bush and the Republicans the presidency for the next eight years. I can't say.

But I can say that for the next couple of years I made a few bucks betting people that I could get H. Ross Perot on the phone. He always answered "Hello, this is ole Ross" and I figured he knew what I was up to even though I always made sure to have a question to ask him. And now three decades later I can't help but wonder how the world might be different if he had been elected and if I called him up would he pick up in the Oval Office and say...

"Hello, this is ole Ross, what can I do for you!"



Caracara in the dunes on Padre Island.

By Steve Coons

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The Island Outdoors



On the Rocks
By Jay Gardner

I hope you loyal readers had a great break for the holiday. Mine went way too fast, and now we are back at it from 0 to 65 miles an hour in 10 seconds. All the projects that were put off till the New Year are piling up quicker than I can even respond to an email. Talk about hit the ground running! But there's a lot going on, so let's jump in, shall we?

ISAC

The Island Strategic Action Committee is meeting next Tuesday at 5:30 pm. at the PI Baptist Church on Jackfish. We have a full agenda which will start off with public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Folks will have three minutes to address the committee and remember that we cannot respond or discuss public comment at that time. Some items of interest that you may want to comment on include what components are wanted or needed at Commodores Park, alternative projects for Bond 2018, and the need for a second causeway to and/or from the Island, somewhere. We will be discussing these items and more at the meeting.

We will also be discussing our priorities for the TIRZ #2 project list. The TIRZ was formed to support the continued maintenance of Packery Channel, and while crews have been out there working on the repairs, they are running into some issues with the need to dredge. The city is waiting on the dredging and sand placement permit to be renewed, and that might need to get elevated. The repairs are taking longer to get accomplished, and this of course will run into cost overruns before we know.

Out with the old...in with the new

Next Tuesday will be a busy day all around as the old council will be disbanded and the new council will be sworn in during separate special meetings starting at 9:00 a.m. There isn't supposed to be public comment during these

meetings, which is why I went down to council at the last meeting in December and embarrassed my friend Greg Smith during public comment. Greg has been a HUGE presence on the Island, fighting for Islanders. He tells me that he's going to travel some and focus on his business ventures that have taken a back seat since he started this journey into politics many years ago with getting involved with and eventually chairing ISAC. Thanks for your service, Greg!

Deep freeze and yellow rumped warblers

Folks are still trying to figure out what damage the freeze did to plants and vegetation. The horse tail palms that many people have should come back in good numbers. The things like Esperanza, firecracker bush, and trumpet vines all dropped their leaves, and the ends of their branches will need to be cut back but wait another month or so before doing so. Then you start at the farthest ends and break them off by hand, moving towards the trunk. If it snaps easily, then it was dead. If it bends and doesn't break, then that's where you stop. Some will die all the way down to the root ball but should come back. Many things will survive and come back, but unfortunately a lot of plumeria that weren't covered properly or brought inside will be toast. Keep an eye on them and cut them back lower than the mushy part towards the ground and you might have some luck. Too bad the freeze didn't wipe out the Brazilian Pepper and oleanders. Oh, and sticker burrs. Ha! There was a huge flock of American robins in my yard the other day, along with the usual butter-butts (yellow rumped warblers). While I do like to see them, they usually are harbingers of freezing weather. I hope that we can get past January and February without getting hit again. Shelling was great down the beach the other day. Y'all drop me a line at tarpon-chaser@mail.com and we'll see you here next week On the Rocks.

Packery from A1

ing the total cost of the project to \$13.5 million due to further erosion of the jetty system.

However, what planners did not account for in the project were delays due to the inability of the barges doing the work to access the channel on a daily basis due to shoaling throughout the channel system. Crews report that the channel now has a "river" about six feet deep down its center but the depth of the water decreases to three feet or less immediately outside the channel and continue to get dramatically shallower as they move toward the base of the jetties making it difficult, if not impossible on many days this week, to get their barges close enough to the jetties to place the rocks that are designed to prevent future erosion of the jetty structures leaving the barges sitting idle near the SH 361/Packery Bridge where swirling currents have cut a hole about twenty feet deep, according to crews.

The fact that there is sand finding its way to the channel is good news and bad news in that for the past six years surveys of the channel have found that there is not a sufficient amount of beach quality sand to refurbish the eroding beach in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall, however, with the reports of the additional silting in the channel that may change.

The bad news is that without a disposal permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers no project to dredge the channel can move forward and the approval of the permit, which city staffers told the Island Strategic Action Committee in November has been applied for,

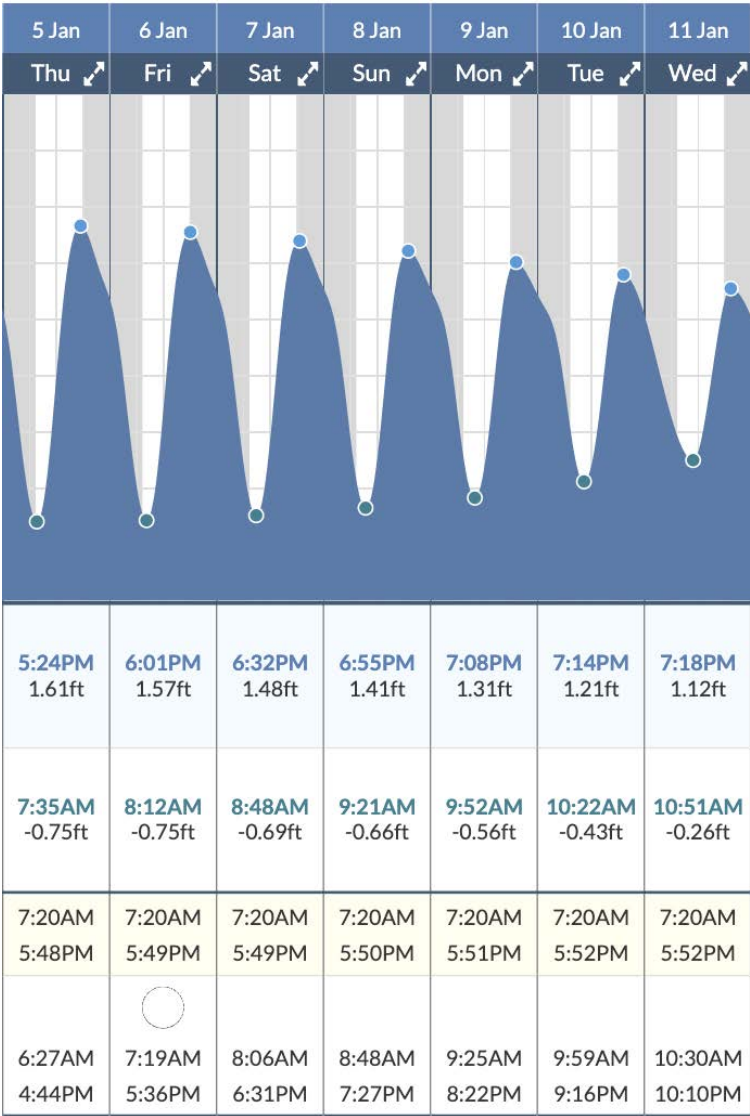
could take as long as a year during which time the channel will continue to fill in.

The sand from the original dredging of Packery Channel in 2004-2005 was pumped onto the beach in front of the seawall to widen the beach from about twenty feet to four hundred feet. If the beach width falls below 150 feet from the base of the seawall the beach must be closed to traffic under rules from the Texas General Land Office.

In the three subsequent maintenance dredging projects the sand was also placed on the beach under the auspices of a disposal permit held by companies represented by the developer Paul Schexnailder. That disposal permit was also used by the Padre Isles Property Association for more than a decade during dredging projects in the Island canal system which is owned by the association. However, when Schexnailder's companies lost ownership of much of their island holdings in 2018 the disposal permit lapsed with responsibility of its renewal falling to the City of Corpus Christi's Beach Maintenance Department.

In addition to the repairs needed after Hurricane Harvey, Callan's proposal included removal of a sunken truck in the channel which was identified in an April 2020 survey performed by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for the City. Callan officials said removal of the truck is required to allow for future maintenance dredging of the channel.

Tides of the Week



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures



This group of ladies and I used live shrimp in the mouth of Baffin Bay to fill the box with black drum last week on a cold day.



Haden brought this monster 7pound trout to the boat this week fishing soft plastics along the PACKERY Channel. Down South Lures super model in Purple Reign.

Flooding from A1

and general welfare by minimizing public and private losses due to flood conditions in areas with a special flood hazard and allows the City to generate additional points that result in further premium discounts for residents. The City is currently a Class 7 community with a total of 1,689 which results in a 15% discount in premiums in a special flood hazard area."

The additional two feet means that homes built since new flood maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) went into effect in 2018 are built at least two feet higher than the existing homes around them. The result has been a two-year long discussion between city planners, builders, and the Padre Isles Property Owners Association which during that time has been waving a red flag concerning drainage issues. In September of 2018 Island builder John Pope sent a message to city officials suggesting that while raising the BFE may make sense for many parts of the city, the majority of Island homes are built nine feet above BFE and with drainage into Island canals and storm sewers, which drain directly into the canals, and flooding in most areas of Padre Island was historically not a problem. In his message to the city Pope said on Padre Island increasing the BFE to eleven feet would in fact mean many, if not most, new homes would need to be elevated to 12.5 feet to meet the code leaving them 3.5 feet above the surrounding homes and lead to flooding problems like the one suffered by Dwyer. They encouraged city planners to exclude Padre Island, or at least portions of it, from the new rules.

However, that was not done and the city's new elevation requirements went into effect in April 2021 and in an effort to head off trouble in June 2021 the Padre Isles Property Owners Association began requiring all new homes in their boundaries to have stamped engineering drawings of a drainage system to move water from the lots of newly constructed homes, which were at least two feet above surrounding homes, either into a canal or onto the street for drainage. A building approval certificate from the PIPOA is required before new construction can begin under the rules set out in each of the deed restrictions of the thirty-plus separate subdivisions on Padre Island which are members of the PIPOA. Other than the requirement of stamped engineering drawings the PIPOA has little recourse to enforce drainage rules under their bylaws.

But three years along Island homeowners who never had issues with flooding in their yards are reporting flooding problems after nearby homes were built under the newer, higher-elevation standards.

In response to the problem and at the urging of the PIPOA in June 2021 the city adopted a new rule which now requires new homes to have a drainage system that is stamped by a licensed engineer and inspected by the city before a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued and a house can be occupied or sold. As a result

the city ordered construction to be stopped on three new houses on Padre Island, after informing the builders they must design and install a working drainage system before the Certificate of Occupancy will be issued.

PIPOA President Marvin Jones said that as things now stand there is no provision for controlling runoff during the construction process; between the time the PIPOA approves the drainage system and when the city makes a final inspection prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupation.

Michael Dice, Assistant Director of Developmental Services for the City of Corpus Christi addressed the problem at the November meeting of the Island Strategic Action Committee and said city planners are aware of the problem and he expects it to be addressed as zoning ordinances are reviewed through 2023. Dice said currently a stamped engineering drawing for a drainage plan is required for a city building permit. The water must be sheet drained into a canal if it is a waterfront lot, and to the adjacent street if it is a dry lot. One problem, Dice said, is that if the system has an engineer's stamp the city has little recourse for enforcement if the design does not work.

"We simply don't have the staff to inspect every house before a Certificate of Occupation is issued after the house is built," he said. "We have to rely on the plan approved by the engineer."

Currently the city's website suggests that if a homeowner has a problem with flooding emanating from neighboring property after it is occupied they must pursue "civil remedies" which is to say sue their neighbor. Jones and the PIPOA are pushing for the city to set new rules that would give aggrieved Island homeowners relief through city enforcement that than through the courts when approved drainage systems fail after new home are occupied. A second flaw in the new rules as outlined at the November ISAC meeting is that while it allows a foot of freeboard, exposed foundation around the house, it allows for raising of the elevation of the surrounding lot which causes runoff. A possible solution to the problem is the use of stem walls which would raise the elevation of the new house without raising the elevation of the surrounding yard. While stem walls are allowed under current city code most local builders are more familiar with slab-on-grade foundations which require elevation of the surrounding yard.

Two possible solutions which could be included in new zoning rules would be to encourage the use of stem walls, leaving the surrounding yard at the existing elevation, and to allow homeowners who are experiencing damage due to new surrounding homes to challenge the drainage plans, and the engineers who approved them, rather than pursuing legal action against their neighbor.

A review of the problem is expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the ISAC on Tuesday, January 10, 5:30 p.m. at Island Baptist Church.

Nature Notes

Have you heard of a Timberdoodle?

By Susan A. Heath



American Woodcocks have eyes set high on their heads so that they can see 360 degrees around themselves. Photo by Sue Heath

In late December and through January, those of us in east Texas are treated to the display of the timberdoodle if we take the time to seek them out. Timberdoodle? That's the colloquial name for the American Woodcock, a bird species that likes moist forests. Although they are taxonomically considered a shorebird, you'll never find one near the shore!

They walk along the forest floor probing for earthworms with their specially designed bill which has a flexible tip. They sometimes rock their body back and forth stepping heavily with their front foot to get worms to move around in the soil, and if you ever see one out in the open you might see them walking this way. There are a lot of videos online showing this distinctive feature. Google it!

Their breeding range is the eastern U.S. and Canada as far south as central Florida, but in Texas they only breed in the far eastern part of the state. Their wintering range includes a larger area of Texas though and they can be found in winter along the coast almost to the Rio Grande River. They are fantastically camouflaged, making them hard to find unless you almost step on one when walking through the woods. They flush with a wing whirl and are gone before your heart stops its frantic beating from the encounter.

Near the end of December, they start getting revved up for the breeding season and often you can see and hear them displaying at dusk until they depart for the breeding grounds in late January. The male gives a buzzy peent call over and over from the ground until he finally launches himself in an upward spiral that can reach 200-350 feet. As he rises, his wings make a twittering sound and then when he descends he makes a chirping noise

before silently landing on his display area and starting the whole process over again. It is a fantastic thing to see! By February they have all departed for the breeding grounds and the show is over until next year.

American Woodcocks are plump and short-legged with very long straight bills. They have large heads, short necks, and short tails giving them a bulbous look, kind of like a ball of feathers. Their wings are broad and rounded compared to other shorebirds which supports their breeding display but also flight through forests where long wings would be a disadvantage.

They are similar to the Wilson's Snipe (yes, there is a bird called a snipe!) but woodcocks have crown stripes going back and forth across the head while snipes have crown stripes going from back to front. Snipes also hang out in wetlands and muddy spots in fields versus woods where you will find the woodcocks.

Woodcocks have another feature that might be considered useful for all you parents out there. Their eyes are positioned high and near the back of their skull giving them a view of 360-degrees in the horizontal plane and 180-degrees in the vertical plane. Pretty nice feature when you want to keep an eye on aerial predators while you're probing the ground with your bill.

Woodcocks have a couple of other interesting names including Labrador twister, night partridge, mudbat, and bog sucker. If you ever see one, you can yell out one of those names and I bet you'll get some attention! But seriously – seek out the woodcock and see their fantastic display. It's worth it!

Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

Light Crude Now, Broader Problems Later

While we were dreaming the Night Before Christmas that St Nick Soon Would Appear, there was an oil spill in Corpus Christi Bay. The spill wasn't a large one as spills go although more recent estimates put it as several times the original estimate --- that's common, though). However we, meaning the Royal We of all of us including our elected leadership and industry partners, should review the ecological information because this is a harbinger of things to come. It's easy to fall into the "charismatic megafauna" trap and focus only on birds and turtles. News reports say several birds died and a turtle may be sick because of contact with the relatively highly toxic oil (compared to weathered light oil or heavy crude spills). But it seems likely that hundreds if not thousands of microscopic larval fish, shrimp, crabs, and many other species may have encountered the spill. They often get ignored because of their minute stature although their mortality manifests later as "loss of yield" because those that died or were too maimed to make metamorphic transitions properly will just "never show up" in the adult populations. This loss should be assessed as part of our communities' quantification of effects. Further, in shallow waters experiencing turbulent wave action, seagrass and resident adult invertebrate and small vertebrate fish and cephalochordate (ie., lancets, minnow-like in appearance but no true backbone) fauna may be exposed as well. The spatial and faunal/floral extent of such shallow subtidal oiling should also be considered.

Then, my favorite case of salt marsh and mangrove plants! Some oil has reportedly come ashore on what's called Rookery Islands. That should key in your mind birds, and lots of birds. But, if you think it through, fundamentally it is really about the mangroves and marsh plants that (especially the mangroves) are providing nesting sites for many birds of multiple species. Nesting season is coming right up, and I'm hoping that the powers that be overseeing spill assessment are focusing on tightly quantifying oil in these intertidal habitats. Our experience from previous oil spills shows that you don't have to have oil high up in the plants where nests or roosting birds might be. The birds will sometimes come to the ground for feeding, etc. and can become exposed then. If oil persists, or another spill occurs, during the nesting-fledgling season, then adults can be exposed while foraging and bring contaminated food back to their young. On the plant side, marsh plants have been reduced in many locations via competition with larger mangroves. Mangroves, in turn, were reduced by the 2021 freeze. In some places we're studying recovery of marsh is fairly rapid, in others almost nil. If oil comes ashore that sinks into the sediment, it can persist MUCH longer than oil in water and produce lingering effects on plant roots, rhizomes and thus a cascade of effects through the above ground portions of the plants. Where this results in root mortality, or just in slower recovery surviving of roots, accelerated erosion is a good possibility. Erosion will be increased by sea level rise (greater than 11 mm/year in some places locally, see a previous column citing USGS data). And, of course at sites recovering slowly from the 2021 freeze, the double-whammy of that plus sea level rise will quite possible accelerate strongly losses via erosion. That likelihood needs to be considered in assessing the effects of this and future spills and releases, and other anthropogenic perturbations (such as desalination plants, dredging for channels, production of new bridges and causeways, pollution from other chemical industries, etc).

Our estuaries are in pretty good shape compared to some other sites around the country, but will they be in 10, 20, or 30 years? Only if we prioritize protection, conservation, and in some cases restoration of our natural biotic resources. We simply can't sit back and let development run willy-nilly piecemeal over time in search of profit margins in the short-term, because the long-term results of this as seen in MANY other places is degradation or complete loss of living environmental resources. Other regions have done this, while living in the Tampa Bay – St Petersburg area, I served as one of many scientific advisors in the quite massive Tampa Bay Estuary restoration, and witnessed that the positive changes realized there were due mainly to buy-in from, and eventual leadership by, local governments, state agencies, and NGO stakeholders. The "working together" approach allowed for and guided the wondrous benefits experienced by estuarine ecosystems and species there. Here, I think we can get ahead of the "problem" before we see the losses that Tampa Bay did before they organized. We have a Port that's interested in the Bay, we have the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve that are highly focused on our estuarine, coastal and fishery issues, we have the Texas State Aquarium interested in conservation and education of "all things" estuarine, as well as the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean, we have two major universities engaged in education of our next generation of ecologists, oceanographers, meteorologists/climatologists, etc. that can target faculty and student research on specific problems, we have environmental consultants who have expertise to bring to the table, we have fishing organizations who have members on the water every day and so will often see things before anyone else does, we have other NGOs like The Nature Conservancy engaged in site-specific management and conservation of our natural resources, as well as broader initiatives that our bay can be a part of, and of course we have a major federal/state partner in Texas Sea Grant. Roll all these, and likely the many others I've left out, together into a working entity led by local political leaders with advice from the scientists and engineers and NGO/environmental leaders, and with a budget to support needed work, and I think we can exceed even what Tampa Bay was able to do.

So, local leaders....you're on notice! We, your voting public, recognize that the extent of the potential problem extends FAR past a few birds and turtles. Please be sure to provide for us: 1) the A+ assessment of this particular relatively small spill and 2) a Far-reaching plan to deal with the inevitable future spills and releases from a variety of sources in order to protect the Bays of the Coastal Bend and the wetlands and beaches of Padre and Mustang Island! And, please don't insult our intelligence by saying that plans and programs in place will "prevent or minimize" such spills, releases, and other human-caused problems in our estuarine, coastal, and near shore ecosystems. That's not proven to be true elsewhere, and it'd won't be so here! Thank you in advance, and keep Going Native -- Because in reality this is all about going native in many ways and in myriad ecosystems. The issues extend far beyond what we might do in landscaping our yards ... although that's part of the solution of course!

Covid Capers

By Pastor Kris Bair



You know the saying . . . never look a gift horse in the mouth.

We might add, "Especially if said horse has Covid."

You may recall that LAST Christmas the missing SS (Serendipitous Son) and his family brought us that hidden gift—inadvertently, of course.

Christmas Day was all hugs and kisses—and one night later the plague hit 'em with a home run. We nursed the whole family for a week, and then they spent another week trying to get back to Germany from Austin—the youngest kept testing positive, even 16 days after onset.

In the meantime, once they left, the GP (Great Provider) and I got it, blessedly one at a time and cases that were time-consuming (which both of us do have a lot of these days), but not perilous. Since then, the GP re-contracted it last summer, despite getting his boosters: one of those misery-not-going-anywhere cases that lasts interminably—all aches and pains but not life-threatening. He was landed like a big buffalo fish for weeks—unable to take his daily walks or do anything much. Even watching TV was a pain.

I had just gotten my booster, and I didn't catch it from him. Thank God! But five months later—Happy New Year! I was gifted a ticket to the Magical Cirque show in the Selena Auditorium the day after Christmas. Somebody there was a spreader, and three days later—bam!

The gift that keeps on giving. So beware, people. Vaccines do work. Masks are not a bad thing. Washing hands frequently is a good thing, even if there's no plague around. Avoiding crowds is highly advised. And God bless HEB, pharmacies, and local restaurants for home delivery and carry-out.

So this is my second round of Covid. Because of the first case, my doctor said I shouldn't get last spring's booster until six months after I'd been sick with it. So I didn't get boosted (yes, Autocorrect, that is a verb) until the end of July. Next booster was due any day now. Sigh. I should've bitten the bullet and gotten it sooner,

rather than later.

However, I had just learned my pneumonia vaccine was outdated and I needed another shot, which I got. And there was a flu shot to get (and I got it two weeks later). So I did do diligence, just not "due diligence," I guess. I've been nearly one week with the disease and I'm feeling a bit better every day.

But not better enough. Last time, it was two weeks after testing negative before I shook it enough to be able to think straight. I didn't mind the flu symptoms—I'd had the flu many times before and knew what to expect and what to do about it. I DID mind the horrible inability to think straight, which lingered long after the flu symptoms had been conquered.

Some of my parishioners complained of the same thing—it was impossible to prioritize what needed to be done; impossible to multi-task; impossible to focus. You had to live one day at a time, one hour at a time, one minute at a time—even when you felt like you were probably all better. Even when you tested negative and knew you no longer officially had the disease. I would describe it as creeping around in a fog. For weeks! One shudders to think about it.

And so, if this column seems disjointed or sporadic in any way---it's Covid. Not me. In fact, I would be perfectly willing to place all blame for every sin in my life on Covid. Covid as Original Sin—what a concept! I feel a publishable paper coming on— "The Theological Implications for Covid as Original Sin: Covid as Heresy." You can thank Covid I won't be going anywhere with that one!

We never look askance at mask-wearers at Island Presbyterian Church (Fortuna Bay and Gypsy), where we've updated our ventilation system to help protect against spreading diseases. You can be as safe as anywhere with us during worship at 10 a.m., or even safer by following us on Facebook, where you'll find a link to our Livestream and Zoom. And we'd love to see you at our Epiphany Italian Potluck this Friday, January 6, at 6 p.m. There'll be plenty of food—just bring yourself and your appetite. Happy New Year!



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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Billy Martin Jr.-Memories of His Dad-Billy Martin, Baseball Legend

By Dotson Lewis

Dotsons note: Baseball is a generational sport. It is a love passed down from parents to their sons and daughters through playing sandlot ball in the neighborhood, participating in the local Little League or being around your dad and his buddies as they tell old baseball stories. To me, it was great to hear Billy Martin Jr's memories of his dad, Billy Martin, baseball playing legend. He was interviewed by Rocco Constantino a couple of years ago and below are some of the highlights from that interview. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Rocco Constantino for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.



Billy Martin Jr. with Catfish Hunter before game 4 of the '76 World Series

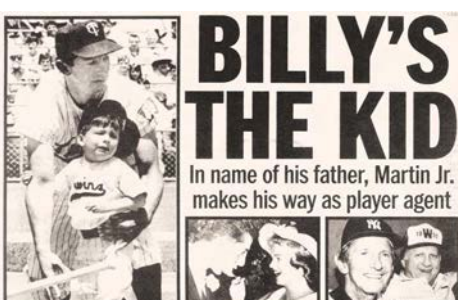
Billy Martin Jr. said: "You don't realize how lucky you are until you look back at it years later." When your dad is Billy Martin and his buddies are named DiMaggio, Ford, Mantle, Rizzuto and Berra, one can understand that a love for the sport of baseball will run deep. Billy Martin Jr. discusses his father's legacy in the game, shares remembrances of Whitey Ford and tells incredible stories of what it was like to grow up around baseball royalty in interviews.

The pride in which Martin Jr. speaks of his dad and his friends is no different than any son who holds his father as a hero. He reveres the accomplishments that should rightfully land the elder Martin in Cooperstown one day and is honest about the much-publicized issues he struggled with at times.

The enduring image of Billy Martin among fans is of the wiry firebrand kicking dirt on umpires, getting in Reggie Jackson's face or leading another team to success through his own sheer competitive will.

Martin Jr. has a different perspective of George Steinbrenner's most famous foil though. He recalls a loving father who never once raised his voice to him, a dad who stressed the importance of a good education and a man who mentored young players, many of whom had a difficult upbringing, like Martin himself.

Martin Jr. has also carved a niche in the game for himself as an agent. He partnered with David Pepe, the son of famed sportswriter Bill Pepe, to form Pro Agents in 1995 and still represents Major League Baseball players today. Get your pinstripes on and get ready to hear about some of the biggest names to ever play the game as we go down memory with Billy Martin Jr.



BILLY'S THE KID

In name of his father, Martin Jr. makes his way as player agent

What It Was Like For You Growing Up Playing Sports As Billy Martin's Son?

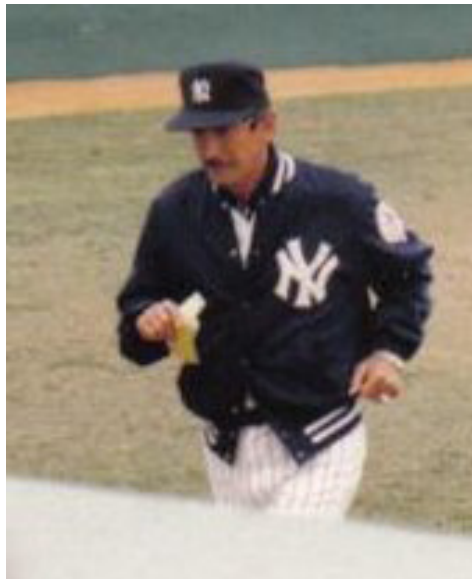
Obviously in baseball there was an added pressure because I lived in his shadow. My dad was an active manager when I was in high school. He literally only got to come to one of my games my whole high school career because he was always working.

We were living in Texas and the A's were in town when my dad was their manager. It was

my senior year, and it was literally the only game he was able to come to. He actually was late for his own game because he wanted to catch one of my high school games.

It was the best game I ever had. I went 5-for-5 and came so close to hitting the only home run I ever hit on any level. And it was because I knew my coach wouldn't yell at me this game. I had a tough coach who yelled at me a lot, but not on that day. I can't say I blame the guy.

I think he was pretty afraid. My dad was fired up for my game, but he got even more fired up that I got in a fight with the catcher a couple weeks before. My friends came to the game and sat in the stands with my father. They said, "Mr. Martin, he really beat that guy up right over there in the parking lot!" My father was so fired up about that because that kid was bigger than me.



Billy Martin-NY Yankees Manager

Even though your dad is known as a Yankee, he had a couple managerial stops before then. What was it like moving around as a kid like that?

I was born in Minnesota when he was managing the Twins, then we moved to Detroit and then to Texas. He really loved Texas. He started wearing boots and cowboy hats. But with the Yankees we'd spend summers in the city and come back to Texas for school.

You were 11 when your dad got hired by the Yankees and 14 when they won the 1977 World Series. That had to be an incredible experience being around those teams.

I spent every summer travelling with those teams. Just hanging with my dad every day. It was really great. The guys were all different. Some were great, some didn't care and just left me alone. Guys like Ed Figueroa used to always mess with me. It was a blast as a kid. You don't realize how lucky you are until you look back at it years later.



Dotson's Other Note: "Billy" Martin, actually Alfred Manuel Martin, (born May 16, 1928, Berkeley, Calif., U.S.—died Dec. 25, 1989, near Fenton, N.Y.), He was an American professional baseball player and manager whose leadership transformed teams on the field, but whose outspokenness and pugnacity made him the center of controversy. At the age of 18 Martin began playing baseball in the minor leagues. He batted and threw right-handed and began playing for the American League New York Yankees in 1950, where he played mainly at second base. Not an outstanding player, he was, however, aggressive and a great player in crucial games, such as the 1952–53 World Series games won by the Yankees. After being traded to the Kansas City Athletics (later the Oakland Athletics) in 1957, he played with five different clubs up to 1961. We're out of space, hope you liked the report. As I recall, the only run-in I had with Billy "The Kid," was in Korakuen Stadium in Tokyo, Japan, sometime between 1952 and 1956. That's a story for another day.

Comments regarding Sports Talk are welcome, send to dlewis1@stx.rr.com or the editor of The Island Moon.



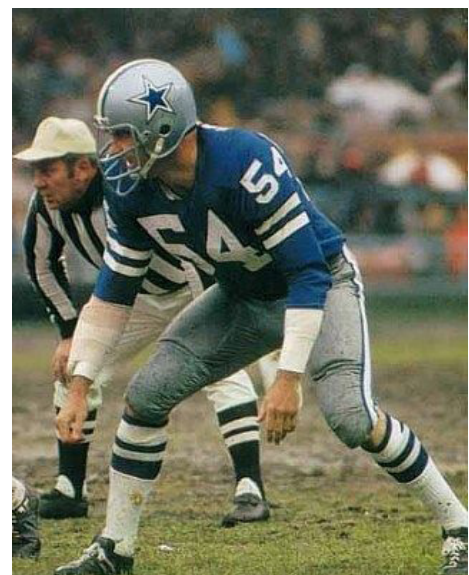
By Andy Purvis

Killer

Football Coach Gene Stallings tells a wonderful story about his time spent as an assistant coach for the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant. Most of you college football fans will remember that Bryant had a tower built where he would stand and watch his Alabama Crimson Tide practice down below. The old saying was that you never wanted to see him come down from that tower during practice, because somebody was going to be dismissed. Well, on this particular day, it was the very first day of freshman football practice. Stallings said there were about thirty wide-eyed kids with the coaches standing in the end zone, waiting for the Bear. Bryant walked out and welcomed the guys to Alabama. I can hear Stallings now, trying to imitate Bryant's guttural voice. Bear said, "I want to welcome all you boys to Alabama. We're gonna teach you how to block and tackle and play Alabama football. Now, to get started, old Bear has placed five footballs down in the other end zone. Why don't you boys run on down there and bring old Bear back one of them footballs." Well, Stallings smiled and said. "You should have seen these guys take off down the field. Thirty boys trying to impress the Bear and only five footballs were to be had."

The year was 1959, and Lee Roy Jordan was one of those boys. Lee Roy was tougher than a two-dollar steak and had been recruited by Auburn and Alabama, but Auburn withdrew their offer soon afterward. Alabama liked his toughness, so Jordan signed with the Crimson Tide. On this particular day, "Lee Roy Jordan brought back three of the five footballs" said Stallings. Needless to say, the Bear was impressed and calmly said to Gene, "Hey, Coach Stallings, I don't think this young man will have to practice very much."

During the three years Lee Roy Jordan played (1960-1962), Alabama lost only two games, posting a 29-2-2 record. The Tide defense gave up 25 points in 1961 and 39 points in 1962. The 1961 team went undefeated and won the National Championship, with Lee Roy Jordan at



Lee Roy Jordan

linebacker. "He was one of the finest players I have ever coached," said Bear.

Lee Roy Jordan attained All-American status in 1963 and was the MVP of that year's Orange Bowl. In 1963, Jordan was drafted with the sixth pick in the first round, by the Dallas Cowboys. From 1963-1976, Jordan was a member of the "Doomsday Defense." His teammates nicknamed him "Killer" and made him captain of the Cowboys' defense. Jordan recorded 1,236 career tackles in 154 starts. His Cowboy teams won five conference championships, eight divisional championships, and one Super Bowl. Jordan was the seventh Cowboy to be inducted into the Dallas Cowboys' Ring of Honor in 1989.

On November 4, 1973, Jordan intercepted Kenny Anderson of the Cincinnati Bengals, three times in five minutes, and returned one for a 31-yard touchdown. He was some kind of player.

Andy Purvis
www.purvisbooks.com

Twenty Years Ago in The Moon...



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Oscar Houchins III, Ed.D. is a singer/songwriter that wrote the hit song "Sugar on Sunday" that was sung by Tommy James & the Shondells. Oscar has shared the stage with the likes of Grand Funk Railroad and the Guess Who. He played New Year's Eve at the Island Italian Restaurant
Photo by Karen Wall.



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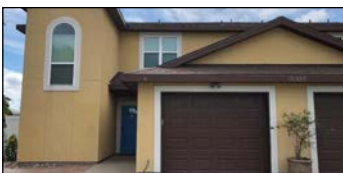
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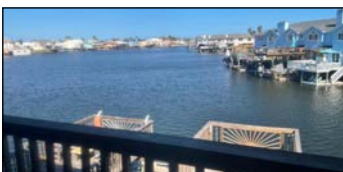
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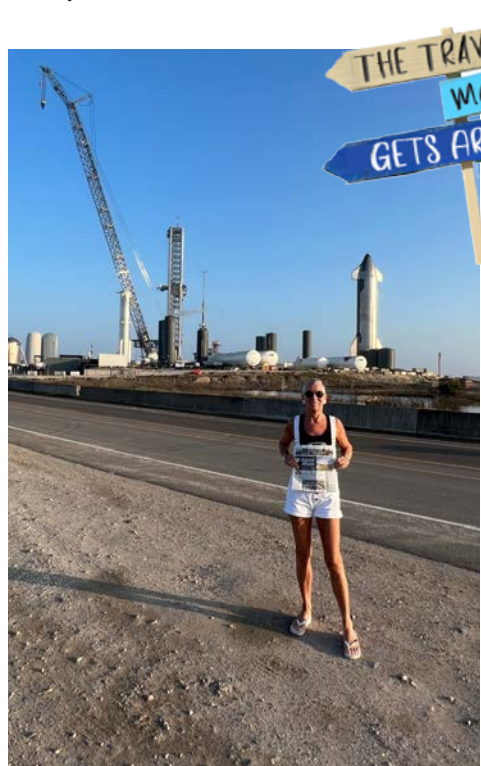


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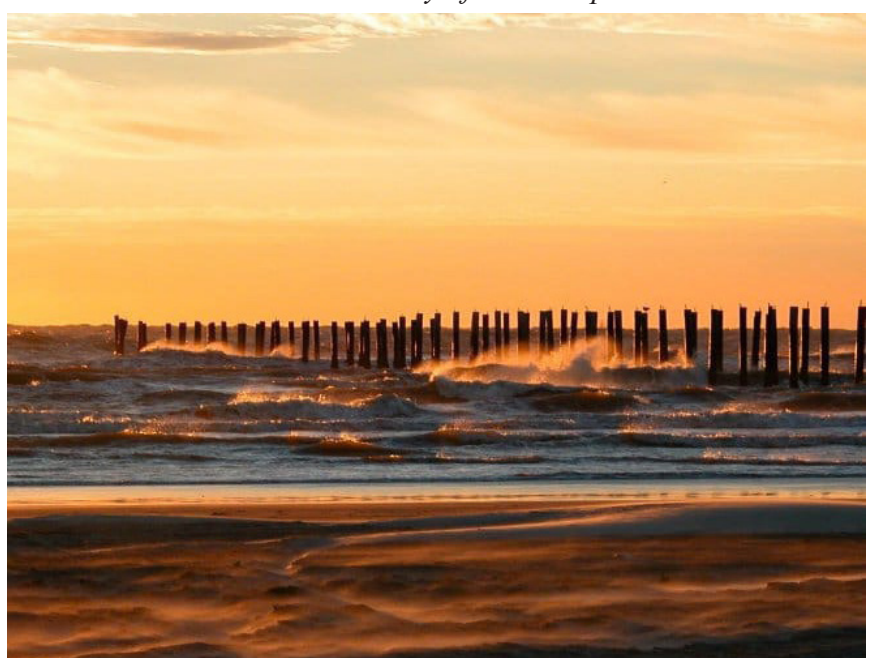
Wanted to see SpaceX and Stargate in Brownsville. Impressive. You just drive by. No restricted Area Miles before you come close. It's the very End of South East Texas and accessible!!!
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Happy New Year, we wanted to share a few pictures from a Mediterranean Cruise we took in December for our 25th Wedding Anniversary, we took the Island Moon along with us. The first picture is on the ship MSC Grandiosa with Barcelona in the background, the second is in front of The Vatican. Thanks so much, Fred and Connie Blackford.



Eric Ozolins releases solid trout from the other day 29.25 inches
Photo courtesy of Ocean Epics



Padre Island once had a Surf Pier by Patrick Lewis



New Year's Day 2023 rolled in warm but foggy.
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



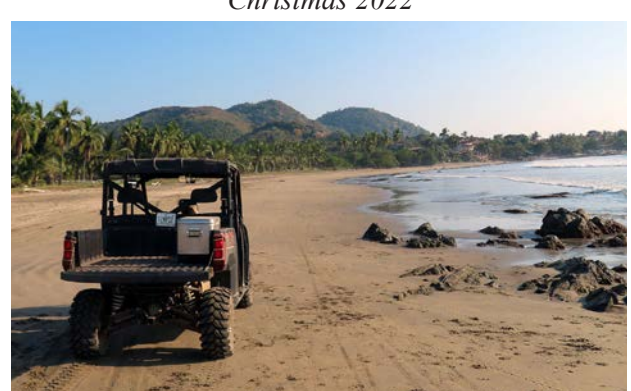
Don't touch my stuff! Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Moon contributor Evelyn Pless-Schuberth is a dedicated sheller and picked up this haul on Christmas Day.



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Kristi, Tracy and Tim on the beach in Troncones Christmas 2022

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BBB Tip: New year, new goals – avoiding fraudulent exercise programs and products

The beginning of a new year is often associated with increased interest in gym memberships, at-home workout equipment and programs designed around living a healthier lifestyle. As consumers recover from holiday celebrations, including holiday dinners typically more robust than the standard fare, the new year offers plenty of opportunities to help shed those extra servings of stuffing. However, it is important to remain mindful of con artists who take advantage of shopper trends for their own gain and to keep realistic fitness goals that can be carried throughout the year.

Online searches for ‘workout equipment’ typically [peak in late December or early January](#) as consumers begin to outfit their homes to pursue their fitness goals. Unfortunately, the increase in interest in these products is also something scammers take advantage of, shifting their tactics from fraudulent holiday gifts to exercise equipment. Better Business Bureau also receives reports of ‘miracle products,’ often provided in a pill or powder, that guarantees the user will lose a certain amount of weight in a certain timeframe. Advertisements for these products often claim the user will not have to alter their diet or change their exercise routine, appealing to a wide range of consumers, but come with a monthly charge that is difficult to remove or a high initial price.

Earlier in 2022, a Texas resident found an online website selling branded gym equipment for extremely low prices with free shipping. After making their purchase, the consumer reported their, “order did not show any sales tax calculated. After I placed the order, the email receipt from PayPal showed a very different business name in a foreign language. When I called to cancel the order, the phone number was non-existent and all my emails to their support email went unanswered.”

Better Business Bureau provides the following tips to get the most out of your new year fitness goals and avoid scams:

Ask questions about limited free trials. Gyms often give a one-week free pass for potential members, and at-home programs provide a trial period to allow consumers to determine if it is the right fit for their fitness goals. If interested in a gym membership, spend the time to realistically determine what time of the day you would be available to dedicate toward exercise and visit the gym

during these times to see how crowded it is or if there is a wait for equipment you would typically use in your workout routine. Check to see if limited trials are offered for any classes or specialized programs.

Don’t feel coerced. Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics to join a workout program immediately or make a purchase online without first researching the seller or business. A reputable gym or program will give you enough time to read the contract thoroughly, tour the facilities and make an informed decision. Be especially wary of claims that seem too good to be true, such as a guarantee of losing a large amount of weight extremely quickly.

Calculate the trust costs. Gyms and at-home workout or dietary programs often use introductory offers to encourage new members, especially in the new year. However, the price could go up more than you budgeted once the initial period is over. Make sure to read the contract and expenses carefully and understand the regular monthly fees and what they include.

Understand the terms. Read the contract carefully before signing and make sure that all verbal promises made by a salesperson are in writing. Pay close attention to the cancellation and renewal policies. Some programs may charge a cancellation fee or will automatically renew your contract at the end of its term.

Be wary of too-good-to-be-true products and deals. Branded workout gear at prices significantly less than what can be found at an authorized retailer is a red flag of a potential scam. While it may be appealing to buy in to dietary programs or nutritional supplements that promise amazing results, exercise caution and trust your gut. Losing 20 pounds in two weeks may sound great, but is hardly ever a realistic goal, and may put more stress on your body than is healthy.

Use a credit card when shopping online. BBB strongly recommends using a credit card for all online purchases rather than a debit card, wire transfer or mobile banking app transaction. In case of a fraudulent seller or business purchase, credit cards offer additional protection and the ability to cancel charges than other forms of payment.

A little Island history...

Padre Isles Golf Course

Editor’s note: The following story ran in the Island Moon on August 22, 1997 under the headline...

Bits and Pieces of the Past

By Glenn Bercot

Can a stretch of sand on a windblown island be made into a golf course? The developer of Padre Isles though so. They developed a wellpoint testing pattern to ascertain the amount of water available below the surface. It was determined that there was plenty of water of excellent quality.

Once acre was set aside for experimental irrigation of grass and shrubbery. The experiment was conducted for a period of five years and proved to be successful.

It was concluded that a golf course would be feasible. Two hundred acres were selected in the approximate center of the development. An eighteen hold golf course was designed by PGA Champion Jackie Burke. It was decided to call for two kinds of bids, one for a nine hold course and one for an 18 hole course. Bids were taken and rejected due to costs exceeding all estimates.

After a study of existing course, as regards to costs and construction, a decision was made to self- contract the job.

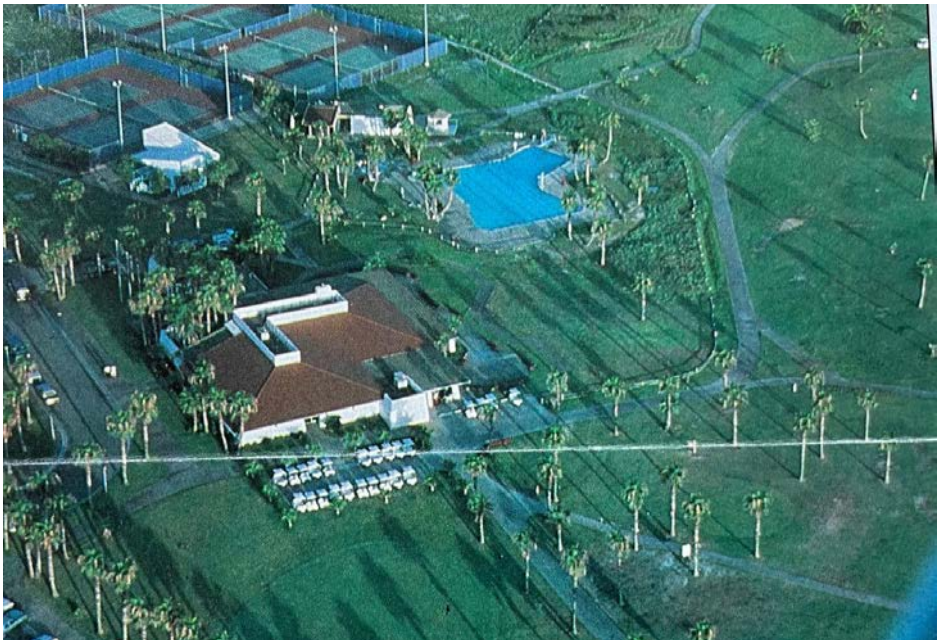
The surface of the land was composed of stabilized dunes ranging in height up to 24 feet. The course was designed to disturb the rolling nature of the land as little as possible. The lowest areas were used as a source of material to build the greens. Fifty-seven wellpoints were drilled they were hooked into a compound by a vacuum pump, then into a lake and picked up by suction into a turbine pumping system distributing the water through sprinkler heads.

Upon completion of the sprinkler system, tifton Bermuda grass was sprigged in. the grassing program was not completed until late 1970. It required a long period of water and fertilizing to bring nine holes into playing condition on July 30, 1971. It cost almost a million dollars for the first nine holes and the clubhouse.

The lakes on the course acted as reservoirs but at one time there was only a three week supply of water remaining. Then the rains came. Once a tertiary treatment plant (the Whitecap Waste Water Treatment Plant) was completed, it has continued to provide an excellent source of water for the course.

The second nine holes of the course were completed and opened in September 1973. In October, that year, the South Texas professional Golfers Association held a tournament on the new course. Charrrles Eskridge was the first pro of Padre Isles Country Club and the General Manager.

The completed clubhouse became the social center of activity for The Island. It was used by the developers as a facility for entertaining prospective buyers from around the world. In the dining room, it was not uncommon to hear conversations in three or four languages. Early property owners were given a social membership with no dues until 1975, which allowed full use of the club facilities. At one time the golf course was rated in the top 24 in the state of Texas.



PADRE ISLES COUNTRY CLUB


Corpus Christi Rental Market is 8th Most in Demand in Texas

The residential rental website RentCafe's 2022 issued its Texas Year-End Report this week and reports that Corpus Christi ends the year as Lone Star State's 8th most in-demand rental market, thanks to high lease renewal rates and ongoing competition among renters looking for a new apartment. Markets in Texas continued to attract out-of-state renters looking for “better job opportunities and a more affordable lifestyle.” Competition for rentals in Texas was quite reasonable compared to the national landscape, thanks to the state's strong construction pace. Even so, some rental markets got hotter this year, including Corpus Christi.

Here's how Corpus Christi ranks in terms of competitiveness

- 🕒 In 2022, more than a third of renters in Corpus Christi looked for a new place to call home, while 64.9% of them decided to stay put and renew their leases.

An average of 8 prospective renters applied for each empty apartment in the area. Rentals in Corpus Christi filled up in 43 days, with the average number of vacancy days dropping to 41 during peak rental season. Very few apartments were built in Corpus Christi this year, as the share of new rentals increased by 0.5%. With occupancy rates close to 93%, renters had few housing options in this bustling metro. Looking at the market's evolution throughout 2022, competition in Corpus Christi increased by 9.4% during peak rental season, thanks to higher occupancy and lease renewal rates than the first part of the year.



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January 3, 2023

Sudoku

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

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Moon

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. African tree snake
6. Holding device
10. Wring one's hands
14. Run -- of the law
15. Memorable times
16. Contemporary of Cab and Duke
17. Antique starter
18. Ingredient in tailor's chalk
19. Ibri locale
20. Toy vehicle with an irritating horn?
23. Lennon's soulmate
24. Some fetes
25. It may have a wide body
28. Descent into disorder
32. Range or river
34. Baseless person, really
35. Triple Crown winner, 1935
40. Confederate with a disdain for cruise ships?
43. Pantheon member
44. -- fixe
45. Something about you
46. Turned a deaf ear on
49. Item that's often picked up
50. Empire State capital
54. Trig. figure
56. Plant eater that's down in the dumps?
63. Emulated Quasimodo
64. State openly
65. Tractor handle?
66. Naysayer
67. Perry Como's "-- Marie"
68. Language of science
69. Velvety tree hugger
70. On tenterhooks
71. Build, as a monument

Down

1. Speed ratio
2. Michael Jackson wore one
3. Bellyacher's emission
4. Fleecing operation
5. Welding gas
6. High-level denial
7. Rafsanjani's land
8. Polio conqueror
9. Protective embankment
10. Botanist's concern
11. Storytelling uncle
12. Pass, as legislation
13. Gas and think, for two
21. Having a musical key
22. Words with "Happy birthday"
25. Wynonna or Ashley
26. It's inferior to Superior
27. Danny DeVito vehicle?
29. Pudd'nhead's creator
30. Musical piece with a repeated theme
31. More archaic
33. Three sheets to the wind
36. CEO's wallhanging
37. Touch upon
38. Juno's counterpart
39. Qatari, for one
41. Giving the once-over
42. Parasitic person
47. Do the hula
48. Draw aimlessly
50. James Garfield's middle name
51. Bolivian plain
52. Tries to move someone 90 feet
53. Sponsorship
55. Word with head or mint
57. Rarin' to go
58. "Yesterday" or "Tomorrow"
59. Persuade
60. Sneaky guy
61. Speed skater Heiden
62. It's overhead



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Police Blotter

December 27-December 31

JFK Causeway to Aquarius

Disturbance

11800 block SPID Noon December 31

SPID/Aquarius 8 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

13900 block Sea Horse 8 a.m. December 31

Suspicious Person

13300 block SPID 4 p.m. December 29

Traffic

18 Traffic Stops

13500 block SPID 3 p.m. December 29 Hit and Run

14000 block SPID 9 a.m. December 27 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

13500 block Camino de Plata 5 p.m. December 29 Shots Fired

15900 block Punta Espada 9 p.m. December 31 Shots Fired

Crimes against Property

15300 block Bonasse 8 a.m. December 28 Theft of Services

15600 block Cruiser 8 a.m. December 27 Theft of Services

Disturbance

14700 block Lighthouse 9 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

14300 block Cruiser 8 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

Flintlock/Barataria 8 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

14800 block Aquarius 7 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

13900 block Sea Horse 8 a.m. December 31

13500 block Camino de Plata 8 a.m. December 28

15800 block Portillo 9 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

15800 block SPID 10 p.m. Fireworks

15400 block Cuttysark 9 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

15400 block Palmira 8 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

15400 block Palmira 8 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

Encantada/Almeria 6 p.m. December 30

15800 block Cuttysark 10 p.m. December 29 Wanted Person

Playa Del Rey/Verdemar 10 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

Suspicious Person

Ambrosia/Jackfish 11 p.m. December 30

Whitecap/Yardarm 3 a.m. December 30

14600 block SPID 7 p.m. December 27

Traffic

64 Traffic Stops

13900 block Flintlock 2 p.m. December 29 Parking

Windjammer/Barataria 1 p.m. December 29 Parking

14900 block Topgallant 1 p.m. December 29 Parking

16000 block Treebine 7 a.m. December 27 Parking

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico/North to Port Aransas City Limits

Crimes against Person

15200 block Windward Noon December 28 Physical Altercation

Crimes against Property

15600 block Gulf Beach 5 p.m. December 28 Theft of Services

15600 block Gulf Beach 4 p.m. December 28 Theft from Vehicle

14900 block Windward 9 a.m. December 30 Theft \$750-\$2500

15600 block Gulf Beach 5 p.m. December 28 Theft of Services

15600 block Gulf Beach 4 p.m. December 28 Theft from Vehicle (second incident)

Disturbance

15800 block SPID 10 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

15200 block Windward 7 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

14800 block Gulf Beach 7 p.m. December 31 Fireworks

15200 block Windward 10 p.m. December 29 Noise Ordinance Violation

15200 block Windward 6 a.m. December 27

11000 block Gulf Beach 11 p.m. December 28 Discharge of a Firearm

11100 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. December 27 Fire

Suspicious Person

14700 block Whitecap 9 p.m. December 28

11700 block SH 361 4 p.m. December 27

Traffic

47 Traffic Stops

Moon Classifieds #977

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Public Notice

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

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

Crossword Solution

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



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A little Island history

Editor’s note: Our Island has seen its share of pirates; seagoing pirates as well as land pirates. As incongruous as it may sound pirate ships did have rules. So in case any of you Islanders decided to cast your fortune with the Bounty Main here are some rules to consider.

By Dale Rankin

Bartholomew Roberts set sail from London in November 1719 on the ship Princess. While taking on slaves in Guinea was himself taken prisoner by pirates on a ship captained by Howel Davis. He was at first an unwilling pirate but when Captain Davis met a pirate’s fate Robert’s found himself elected pirate captain by the crew. Pirate ships were open democracies with the Captain in total charge only while in battle. The crews decided where to go, what to raid, and picked their captains by popular vote. A nominating speech for Roberts went like this:

“We are the original of this claim,” he said. “and should a captain be so saucy as to exceed prescription at any time, when down with him! It will be a caution after he is dead to his successors, of what fatal consequences any sort of assuming may be. However, it is my advice, that, while we are sober, we pitch upon a man of courage, and skilled in navigation. One who by his council and bravery seems best able to defend this commonwealth, and ward us from the dangers and tempests of an unstable element, and fatal consequences of anarchy; and such a one I take Roberts to be. A fellow! I think, in all respects, worth your esteem and favor.”

Roberts thus became captain after only six weeks gone a-pirating. Roberts acceptance speech later recorded during the trials of his crew went like this: “...since he had dipped his hands in muddy water, and must be a pirate, it was better being a commander than a common man.”

But even amongst the company of this floating rogues gallery there had to be some rules. While anarchy is indeed its own political system it is not one conducive to successfully raiding ships on the high seas. So Robert laid down a set of eleven rules that pirate ships across the world adopted in one form or another through the Golden Age of world piracy. Scholars think there were probably more but the list of the more inflammatory were tossed overboard as the pirates were about to be taken prisoner for fear that the remainder of the rules would not bode well for them in future legal proceedings. The eleven rules came down through history to us are thus:

Rules for a pirate ship

☞☞☞ Every Man has a Vote in Affairs of Moment; has equal Title to the fresh Provisions, or strong Liquors, at any Time seized & us them at pleasure, unless a Scarcity (no uncommon think among them) make it necessary for the good of all, to Vote a Retrenchment.

☞☞☞☞ Every Man to be called fairly in turn, by List. On Board of Prizes, because, (over and above their proper Share) they there on these Occasions allow’d a Shift of Cloaths: But if they defrauded the Company to the Value of a Dollar, in Plate, Jewels, or Money, MAROONING was their punishment. (This was the barbarous custom of putting the offender on shore, on some desolate or uninhabited cape or island, with a gun, a few shot, a bottle of water, and a bottle of powder, to subsist with, or starve. If the robbery was only between one another, they contented themselves with slitting the ears and nose of him that were guilty, and set him on shore; not in an uninhabited place, but somewhere, where he was sure to encounter hardships.)

☞☞☞☞☞ No Person to game at Cards or Dice for Money.

Captain Roberts

☞☞☞☞☞ The Lights & Candles to be put out at eight o’Clock at Night. If any of the Crew, after that Hour, still remained included for Drinking, they were to do it on the open Deck; (which Roberts believed would give a check to their debauches, for he was a sober man himself, but found at length that all his endeavors to put an end to this debauch proved ineffectual).

☞☞☞☞ To Keep their Piece, Pistols & Cutlash clean & fit for service. (In this they were extravagantly nice, endeavoring to outdo one another in the beauty and richness of their arms, giving sometimes at an auction (at the mast) thirty or forty pounds a pair, for pistols. These were slung in time of service, with different coloured ribbands over their shoulders, in a way peculiar to these fellows, in which they took great delight..)

☞☞☞☞☞ No Boy or Woman to be allow’d amongst them. If any Man were found seducing anny of the latter Sex, and carried her to Sea, disguised, he was to suffer Death. (So that when any fell into their hands as it chanced in the Onslow, they put a sentinel immediately her t prevent ill consequences from so dangerous an instrument of division and quarrel; but then here lies the roguery; they contended who shal be sentinel, which happens generally to one of the greatest bullies, wh0, to secure the lady’s virtue, will let none lie with her but himself.)

☞☞☞☞☞☞ To Desert the Ship, or their Quarters in Battle, was punished with Death, or Marooning.

☞☞☞☞☞☞☞ No striking one another on Board, but every Man’s Quarrels to be ended on Shore, at Sword & Pistol. Thus: The Quarter-Master of the Ship, when the Parties will not come to any Reconciliations accompanies them o Shore with what Assistance he things, proper, & turns the Disputants Back to Back, as so many Paces Distance. At the Word of Command, they turn and fire immediately, (or else the Piece is knocked out of their Hands). If both miss, they come to their Cuttlases, and then his declared Victor who draws the first blood.

☞☞☞☞☞☞ No Man to talk of breaking up their Way of Living, till each



Robert's Flag

had shared a 1000 pounds,. If in order to this, any Man should lose a Limb, or become a Cripple in their Service, he was to have 800 Dollars, out of the public Stock, and for lesser Hurts, proportionally.

☞☞☞☞☞ The Captain and Quarter-Master to receive two Shares of Prize; the Master Boatswain, & gunner, one Share and a half and other Officers, one and a Quarter.

☞☞☞☞☞ The Musicians to have Rest on the Sabbath Day, but the other six Days & Nights none without special Favour.

A bible or an ax

The oath of fealty to these rules could be sworn by placing a hand upon a bible, reserved for that purpose only, or on an ax, which tended to be more plentiful on pirate ships that bibles.

There were some other rules or order observed on pirate ships:

For the punishment of small offenses, which were not provided for by the eleven articles, and which were not of enough consequences to go to a jury, there was a principal officer among the pirates, called the Quartermaster of the men’s own choosing, who claims all authority this way (excepting in time of battle). If they disobey his command, are quarrelsome and mutinous with one another, misuse prisoners, plunder beyond his order, and in particular, if they be negligent of their arms, which he musters at discretion, he punishes at his own arbitrement, with drubbing or whipping, which no one else dare do without incurring the lash from all the ships company. In shore, this officer is a trustee for the whole, is the first on board any prize, separating for the company’s use what he thinks fit to the owners, excepting gold and silver, which they have voted not returnable. The Quartermaster was I shore the civil magistrate on a pirate ship.

The Captain

Next in line of authority was the military officer, The Captain. His duty was to strike a balance between the amount of discipline over his group of seafaring freebooters necessary to forge them into a fighting unit without being voted out of office. In return, he got use of the great cabin on the boat and whatever privileges and parcels the crew might see fit to award him. The crew had free run of the great cabin and the victuals and drink in it.

To counter this loose marshaling of power and resources Roberts instituted what would become known in the Texas Prison system more than 200 years later as a Ward System. The pirates referred to a captain thusly organized as Pistol Proof. He made a privy-council of a half dozen of the greatest bullies, and potential rivals, onboard and made them part of his ruling junta.

During battle, or chase of a ship full of booty, the captain is in unquestioned and absolute control; for pirate ships during a fight were after all military vessels. During battles pirates were subject to the same lordship by the captain as prisoners. This served to take the power to misuse prisoners from the more rash elements of the ship’s crew. Roberts treated his prisoners well but told them it was simply due to his appeasing nature rather than and love or partiality toward them because, “there is none amount you but will hang me, I know, whenever you can clinch me within your power.”

A short and merry life

Roberts took the pirates life not because he couldn’t find honest work but “twas to get rid of the disagreeable superiority of some masters (he) was accompanied with, and the love of novelty and change,” maritime peregrinations had accustomed him to. “In some honest service,” he said, “there is thin commons, low wages, and hard labor; in this, plenty and satiety, pleasure, and ease, liberty and power; and who would not balance creditor on this side, when all the hazard that is run for it, at worst, is only a sour look or two at choking (hanging). No, a merry life and a short one, shall be my motto.”

Roberts went into his final battle off the coast of Sierra Leon in January 1722 on his ship Royal Fortune. He was surprised and outgunned with his ship of 40 guns and 175 men. He was wearing a rich crimson damask wastecoast and breeches, a red feather in his hat, a gold chain around his neck with a diamond cross hanging from it, a sword in his hand and two pairs of pistols hanging at the end of a silk sling slung over his shoulders. He was said to have been giving orders with boldness and spirit when a round of grapeshot from a man-of-war tore through his throat and left him slumped over a gun. The crew threw his body overboard as had been his request in his lifetime; thus ended the Pirate King’s short and merry life.

A little Island history

History of the Padre Island Yacht Club

Editor’s note: The following story ran in the August 26, 1997 edition of the Island Moon.

By Katrina Warren

Early in 1986 twenty-five enthusiastic yachtsmen met at the Sun Gallery Room at Anchor Resort to take the first steps to organize a yacht club on North Padre Island. Local media and word of mouth spread the idea to other area boaters and our club was off to a good start.

Some activities enjoyed that first year included cruises to Bayfest, Lydia Ann Channel, and offshore to Port Isabel and Port Mansfield. Social events included potluck dinners, picnics, the first “Almost Live” Jimmy Buffett concert and decorated boat parades for Halloween and La Posada.

In 1993 the long-range planning committee began looking into the possibility of building a new clubhouse. Our membership had grown to eighty-eight families and was quickly outgrowing the facilities at Anchor Resort.

In 1995 an on-site picnic and ground-breaking excited the membership about the prospects of a new clubhouse. January 1996 saw the construction of the new building. Many club members donated time and furnishing to complete it. While providing many man hours working on the building, PIYC members continued an active social, racing, cruising and dining schedule. By then, beach parties, a fish fry or a progressive dinner would draw over one hundred hungry yachtsmen.

Today PIYC continues to grow and expand its activities. There are many plans on the docket for improvement to the building and facilities including additional docks.

Editor’s note: To pay for the new building about a dozen members each pledged \$10,000 toward the building fund.

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour

ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Hello 2023 & Buh-Bye to 2022...



HAPPY NEW YEARS.
Photo by Steve Coons

What a long strange trip it's been! I happily kiss 2022 goodbye and welcome the possibilities of next year. Me and my **Mermaid Gal** had a glorious trip to Mexico on the week before Christmas. We went down to Troncones on the Pacific Coast to see our friends **Tim Everitt** and **Kristi Buttler**. Troncones is about a hundred miles north of Acapulco. You might remember Tim as the previous owner of the *Port A Beer Hut* aka: the *Swing Bar*. Tim sold their bar in Port A and bought a hotel very close to Zihuatanejo and Ixtapa... and we went to see them. To say they rolled out the red carpet for us was an understatement. I put a pic of me and Tracy having a big dish of coconut shrimp served on fresh pineapple. Tim's sons **Adam** and **Ashton** also live with them and are very active in the daily operations of the hotel. Plus they are avid surfers and showed us some beautiful surfing spots while we were there. It was a quick five day trip and we actually ended up traveling back to Texas on Christmas Day, which was a blessing in disguise since the airports around the country pretty much all filled up and melted down on the following day. The bad news is that we both tested positive for COVID when we got home. There's no telling where we picked up that monster along the way but we did. You could count the number of people wearing masks on one hand along the way and especially on the airplane. We were both up to date on all our shots, except for one final booster that **Tracy** needed... but I had all of mine and still got the virus and for a second time. The good news is that neither of us got very sick, but we did have to spend another NYE in isolation. You might remember last year at this time I was in the hospital over the holidays and we watched the fireworks from the window of *Spohn Shoreline*. So in a nutshell, I haven't been to any live music shows around here in few weeks but I'm told it was another stellar New Year's Eve. My pal **KK** over at *Red's* said that **Matt Hole** put on an excellent show and the place was packed. I also heard that the **Groove** ripped it up pretty good at the *VFW* and **Afterglow** played to a pretty wild crowd at *Treasure Island*.

On the Local Front...



Ronnie and Tracy having coconut shrimp in Mexico.

Heidi and **Kip** at the *Gaff* report another stellar *Black Eyed Pea Off* on New Year's Day and sent me some great pics. Tracy made us some peas for prosperity this year. I sure hope it works. And although we had the COVID, we were able to watch the New Year's Eve fireworks show from out porch. Thanks again **Mr. Charles Butt** for another super show and for your fine grocery stores. And thank you **Steve Coons** for your predictably wonderful photos of the event. And speaking of upcoming events, *Bernie's Beach House* will once again be hosting their Wednesday residency shows with the **PA Rockers** until Spring Break starting on the 11th. The "Rockers" are a hybrid "big band" ensemble of local musicians mixed in with a smattering of *Winter Texans*. The group is fronted by **Colorado Bob Reed**

and boasts a big "oldies" rock sound that guarantees a packed dance floor on every tune. The shows start early and are non-smoking events. You really should do yourself a favor and go to one of these shows just for the laughs. Talk about the inner child coming alive on that dance floor! Also on the local front, the winter *Yarn Bombers* are back and have put 300+ bollard buddies on all of the bollards by *Horace Caldwell Pier*. This is a product of our seasonal *Winter Texans* with busy hands every summer. And finally on the local front, I want to wish my old pal **Rockin' Dale Rankin** a very happy birthday this Friday. I've known Dale since the 80's but I'm not sure how old he is. Not as old as me, I'm betting. Any guesses?



Sean Hunter shows off his entry for the *Black Eyed Pea Off* at the *Gaff* on Sunday. Photo by Lisa Small

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



Matt Hole and the *Hot Rod Gang* played *Red's* on New Year's Eve. Photo by Lisa Small

This Thursday the **Darwin Misfits** featuring **Father James Derkits** will host a fundraiser for the *Trinity By the Sea Episcopal Church*. On Friday **Kevin Kurtz** will play the *Gaff* and **JonMikael MREZ** plays the *Pelican Lounge* on Padre Island. On Saturday, **Coach Dude Dugan** plays the *Gaff*, the **Free Beer Band** plays *Island Wine*, the **Groove** plays the *VFW*, the **Rockaholics** play the *Packery Bar* and the *House of Rock* hosts a **Rage Against the Machine** tribute band, plus the *Executive Surf Club* has **Eclipse** and the **Left Hand Devil** will play the *Black Monk*. On Sunday, **Tumble Dry Low** plays *Bernie's*, **Jerry Ward** plays the *Pelican Lounge* and **Barbara Janice** plays *Island Wine*. On Wednesday, I mentioned the **PA Rockers** start their Wednesday winter residency at *Bernie's Beach House*, **Riptide** brings their rockabilly tunes to the *VFW*, **Michael Burttis** plays the *Pelican Lounge*, **Billy Snipes** plays *Scuttlebutt's* and **Ruben Limas** plays *Island Italian*.

On the horizon...

The *Third Coast Theater* on Avenue G and 11th Street is a world class listening room and features singer-songwriters in an intimate setting. The audience is literally a few inches from the stage and you certainly don't want to be caught talking in the middle of a song while you're there. I've seen many great shows there and have ALWAYS walked away with a sense of fulfillment that I'd witnessed something of importance. The great **Mark McKinney** will perform there on January 28th. On February 4th our pal **Keith Sykes** from Memphis, TN will perform, **Terri Hendrix** and **Lloyd Maines** will play on February 11 and on February 18th it will be **Larry Joe Taylor** and **Richard Leigh**.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Michelle Garza of *Afterglow* played *Treasure Island* on NYE.



The **PA Rockers** will begin their *Winter residency* at *Bernie's* this Wednesday.



Mark McKinney will play the *Third Coast Theater* on January 28th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday,

January 5

Trinity Episcopal
Fundraiser w/
Darwin's Misfits @
Gaff
Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's
Ruben Limas @ Island
Wine
Kevin Kurtz @
Packery Bar
Eli Brown @
Scuttlebutt's

Friday,

January 6

Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff
JonMikael MREZ @
Pelican
Jesse Lopez @ Packery
Bar
Eclipse @ Cassidy's
Pub
Spazmatics @ Brewster
Downtown
Matt Hole @ Vernon's
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's
Derek & The Nat 20's
@ House of Rock

Saturday,

January 7

Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Free Beer Band @
Island Wine
The Groove @ VFW
Rockaholics @
Packery Bar
Jon Car Band @
Pelican
Rage Against the
Machine tribute @
House of Rock
Eclipse @ Executive
Surf Club
Left Hand Devil @
Black Monk
Miles & Dylan @
Blackbeard's

Sunday,

January 8

Tumble Dry Low @
Bernie's
Barbara Janice @
Island Wine
Jerry Ward @ Pelican
Jennifer Gayle Bradley
@ Blackbeard's
Drag Brunch @ House
of Rock

Monday,

January 9

Chuck Almaraz @
Blackbeard's
Jon Eric @ Pelican

Tuesday,

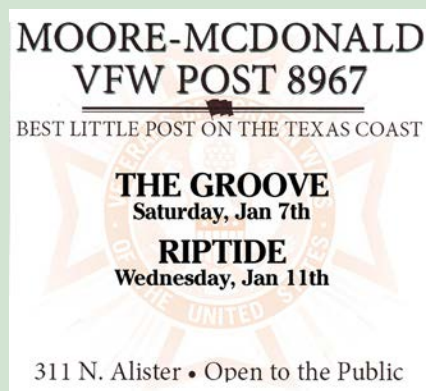
January 10

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

Wednesday,

January 11

PA Rockers @ Bernies
Riptide @ VFW
Michael Burrtis @
Pelican
Billy Snipes @
Scuttlebutt's
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's



Thursday,

January 12

Koffin Kats @ House of
Rock
Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's
Ruben Limas @ Island
Italian
Sharique @ Packery Bar

Friday, January 13

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Michael Burrtis @
Pelican
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar
Triptonite @ Pelican
Lounge
Eclipse @ Harley
Davidson CC
Chainlinks @ House of
Rock
John Elijah @ Vernon's
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Saturday,

January 14

BELT SANDER RACES
@ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Free Beer Band @ Island
Wine
What's My Age Again?
@ House of Rock
Diamond's Edge @
Pelican
Michael Burrtis @
Packery Bar

Sunday,

January 15

Diamond's Edge @
Pelican
Shwayze, Koffin Kats @
House of Rock
Tumble Dry Low @
Bernie's

Monday,

January 16

Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Tuesday,

January 17

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

Wednesday,

January 18

PA Rockers @ Bernies
Riptide @ VFW
Kevin Kurtz @ Pelican
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Thursday,

January 19

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
The Daze @ VFW
Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's
Ruben Limas @ Island
Wine
Kevin Kurtz @ Packery
Bar



**BELT SANDER
RACES**

THE GAFF

LIVE MUSIC



COLD BEER

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM

HOT PIZZA