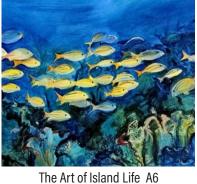


Nature Notes A5

Issue 1126



Backwater Adventures B1





On the Rocks B1



Three Chords and the Truth B8

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# Islana Moon

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It is the Week of Shrinking Pants Around The Island. When the first real cold snap rolls in from OTB Islanders go strolling through their closet for their pair of long pants and when they locate them way down on the end behind the Hawaiian print shirts they wear to church they find them. And then, for reasons unknown they discover to their dismay that they have shrunk! Shrunk we say! Right there in the closet! You can get them up over the knees with no problem and squeeze them past the hips, but no amount of wiggling, sucking in air, and jumping up and down can make the button at the waist meet the buttonhole on the other side. Closet Shrink is real everybody. The Island Moon Atmospheric Impact Department (IMAID) still has the matter under investigation but early indications are it has something to do with either humidity or a long Island warm season which leads to outdoor grilling. If the IMAID solves the problem we will be the first to report it here but as of now it is an enigma, wrapped in a mystery and

slathered with cocktail sauce.





The recent hailstorm that came across The Island was hard on the bird population. It generated what scientists are calling the largest avian mortality event from a hailstorm in North America in decades. The Harte Research Institute sent up drones to survey the damage and found about 2000

Around cont. on A3

# Bob Hall Pier completion set for January

Cost of new Briscoe King Pavilion rises by \$2.1 million Construction set to begin on restaurant

By Dale Rankin The new \$22.7 million Bob Hall Pier is scheduled for completion by January 23, 2026, according to Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney. He said the revised scheduled was finalized this week

and is in keeping with the original completion date of early 2026. Money has also been set aside for

Briscoe cont. on page A4



Rendering of the new Briscoe King Pavillion

# Island drives Short-Term Rental market in Corpus Christi

1521 of 1726 units across the city on the Island

By Dale Rankin

The City of Corpus Christi began registering Short-Term Rental properties in 2022 after the passage of the city ordinance allowing them and requiring them to pay the Hotel Occupancy Tax of nine percent on sales.

An Open Records request by the Island Moon for the 2024-2025 fiscal year finds 1726 Short-Term Rental units now registered across the city

with the vast majority, 1521, on Padre and Mustang islands. The city ordinance allows for multi-family dwellings to be rented for less than thirty days at a time, but prohibits them in residential areas zone RS-6 residential which outlaws them in residential areas. Generally speaking STRs are not allowed west of SPID except for condominium, townhome, and apartment buildings and most of the area east of SPID is covered by STR units.

According to city records there have been three Short Term Rental complaints filed across the city in 2025, two on Ocean View Place in the 78411 zip code, and one on Twenty First St. in the 78405 zip code, none on Padre or Mustang islands. No citations have been written.

There is no attainable number on the dollar amount paid in HOT by

# Listening to the Wild

# A kaleidoscope of Monarchs



By Dr. Ed Proffitt

There is little as delicately beautiful as a kaleidoscope of monarch butterflies attending to food and reproductive necessities. Over the past several weeks Donna and I have enjoyed watching these beauties dance in our Native Plant and Monarch Gardens that serve



Monarch Butterfly

as waystations along the eastern migration route to the wintering grounds in Mexico. Some might say we're easily entertained, but I'd point out that we are in a partnership with the little beasties. In return for us planting species of importance to their needs, the butterflies along with other insects pollinate our Fall bloomers. I don't pretend to understand the insect mind but they

Monarchs cont. on page A6

# Beachcombing Report

# Where did the ghost crabs go?



By Jace Tunnel

Director of Community Engagement. Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus

On some stretches of the Texas

Beachcoming cont. on page A5



## By the numbers

# Short-Term Rental Units

Editor's note: The following are the total number of Short-Term Rental units registered in Corpus Christi as of November 4, 2025

1726 Total Short-Term Rental units registered in Corpus Christi

1521 on Padre/Mustang islands

**704** Mustang Island Packery Channel north to Corpus Christi City Limits

205 in Corpus Christi not located on Padre/Mustang islands

## By the numbers

# Island Hotel, Motel, Short-Term Rental gross revenues Jan.-March 2025

STRs cont. on page A4 | Editor's note: The following dollar numbers come from the Texas Comptroller's Office and show gross revenues as reported for the Hotel Occupancy Tax in the 74818 Zip Code for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (January 1-March 31).

> \$1,314,837 Wyndham Hotel (Monarch Island)

\$404,390 15202 Windward Dr. Monarch Island (filed separately)

\$960,293 Lively Beach (Zahn Rd.) \$820,177 Holiday Inn Express & Suites across Windward Dr. from

Wyndham Hotel \$595,532 Executive Residency by Best Western

\$722,418 Gulfstream Council of Co-owners

\$611,692 Island House

\$595,532 Executive Residency 9305 SPID

\$441,016 Candlewood Suites 9225 SPID (OTB)

\$312,692 Best Western Padre

Island \$382,578 Hawthorn Suites 15209

Windward Dr.

Windward Dr.

Bend (Flour Bluff)

\$166,912 Firefly Resort Coastal

\$88,110 La Quinta Island 14430

\$95,676 Hawthorn Suites 15201

Numbers cont. on page A6



Kohen Faickney and his friend Fletcher took home big prizes in the CCA Texas STAR Tournament

Kohen 1st 30,000 & Fletcher Blackmar 2nd runner up \$15,000





Flamingo in Port Aransas by Judy Bolin O'Kelley

# Buenas Noches Cockroaches!



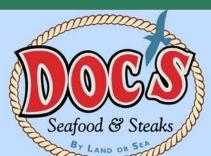
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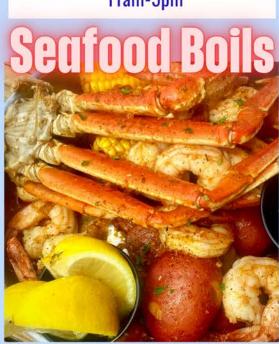






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Island Moon November 13, 2025



# Letters to the Editor

Bob Hall Pier restaurant

Can you point me in the right direction to inquire about bidding on the Restaurant on the Pier (Formerly Mikel Mays)?

David W.

Editor's note: There is currently no bidding process in place for operation of the restaurant planned for the new Bob Hall Pier. The contract for the structure where the restaurant is to be located has been let and the process of soliciting plans and/or bids for operation of the restaurant will be done through the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board and the Nueces County Commission.

The pier is nearing completion and by the end of 2026 and construction on the restaurant structure may begin before the pier is complete. When a process is announced for solicitation of a new operator for the restaurant facility we will report it in the Island Moon, but as for now that process has not begun.



The current state of construction of the Bob Hall Pier Restaurant. Aerial by Augs

## Short-Term Rentals

# What are the rules?

Editor's note: Short-Term Rental units are governed by the City of Corpus Christi. A portion of the ordinance reads as follows:

Sec. 5-38. Permit required. (a) No shortterm rental shall operate within the City of Corpus Christi without a current valid short-term rental permit. (b) All individual units having cooking, sleeping, and bathing facilities, within common buildings, regardless of ownership, shall require a separate, individual permit for each unit intended to be used as a short-term rental.

Sec. 5-39. Short-term rental permit. (a) Application. Application for a short-term rental permit shall be made either in writing or electronically. Application for a shortterm rental permit shall be accompanied by a one-time application fee and shall include the following information, at a minimum:

(1) A list of all owners, operators, and agents (if applicable) of the short-term rental including names, addresses, current email address(es) of owner/operator, and telephone numbers.

(2) A sketch of the floor plan, which identifies sleeping areas, proposed maximum number of guests, evacuation route(s), location of fire extinguisher(s).

(3) The name, address and twenty-four-hour telephone numbers of a contact person, who is the owner, operator, or designated agent and who shall be responsible and authorized to respond to complaints concerning the use of the short-term rental.

(4) A sworn, self-certification that the owner of the short-term rental has met and will continue to comply with the standards and other requirements of this article including, but not limited to: maintenance of insurance coverage of the unit or portions thereof in accordance with this article and obtaining annual independent inspections of required fire extinguishers in compliance with the city's current fire code. (b) Completeness

of application. Applications shall not be considered complete until all documentation required under this article has been submitted, and until the full application and permit fees have been paid. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

(g) Emergency contact. The owner/operator of the short-term rental shall provide the city with a twenty-four-hour contact number for the operator or a designated agent per section 5-39 and shall provide timely updates to city of any changes thereto. Complaints regarding short-term vacation rentals shall be directed to the City complaint helpline. The registered local contact shall be available by phone 24 hours a day to answer calls from the complaint helpline, as well as complaints from any other sources. Upon receipt of a notification or attempted notification regarding a complaint, the registered local contact shall contact the occupant of the short-term vacation rental and resolve the issue giving rise to the complaint. The registered local contact shall have one (1) hour from the time of notification or attempted notification of a complaint to resolve the complaint.

Sec. 5-45. Enforcement/penalty. (a) A person who violates a provision of this division, or who fails to perform an act required of the person by this division, commits an offense. A person commits a separate offense for each and every violation, and for each day during which a violation is committed, permitted or continued (b) The culpable mental state required by Texas Penal Code § 6.02, is specifically negated and dispensed with and a violation under this division is a strict liability offense. (c) The provisions of this article are in addition to and not in lieu of any criminal prosecution or penalties as provided by other city ordinances, county, or state law. (d) An offense under this division is punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500). (e) Violation of any section of this division shall constitute an offense resulting in permit revocation in accordance with section 5-47, Revocation procedures.

# Park Road 22 bridge maintenance begins

# Daytime, single lane closures scheduled to start in December

A new bridge maintenance project on Park week starting in December.

The project covers maintenance on three bridges: Humble Channel, West Laguna Madre and East Relief Channel. The West Laguna Madre Bridge is where Park Road 22 leaves the mainland in Flour Bluff. The East Relief Channel is the bridge between the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and Aquarius Street.

The project will consist of concrete repairs Road 22 is snow underway and will require to the substructure, wrapping the caps and daytime, single lane closures during the column with glass fiber polymer, crack sealing on riprap and deck, and multi-layer polymer overlay, which is a new travel surface. The overlay will be done on the Humble Channel Bridge only.

> Through mid-February, the contractor will perform the substructure concrete repairs, rip rap crack seal and fiber glass wrapping. This work will be done from under the

bridge so traffic will not be affected. If a location is difficult to reach from the barge a platform will be required, which would require closure of the outside lane.

In December, the contractor will work on the travel lanes at the Humble Channel Bridge. Due to the nature of the overlay, the lane being worked on will remain closed until the work is completed. It is anticipated that only one lane will be closed at a time. The sequence of closures will be westbound outside lane, westbound inside lane, eastbound outside lane and eastbound inside lane.

In February the contractor is scheduled to work on the travel lanes at the West Laguna Madre Bridge. Westbound and eastbound outside lanes will be closed first followed by closure of the westbound and eastbound inside lanes.

No lane closures are planned from 6 a.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday.

#### Moon Monkeys Mike Ellis, Founder



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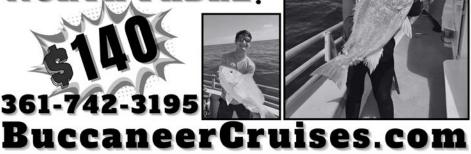
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November 13, 2025 Island Moon Briscoe cont. from A1

# Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

The 59th annual Country Music Association awards are happening in Nashville this week and it almost makes me want to grab my hat and head east on I-40 for a visit to

In the early 1980s I happened into a deal to promote country music shows at La Villita in downtown San Antonio and as a result became a member of the CMA and attended the awards ceremony for several years running and eventually moved there only to have my dreams of becoming a country songwriter disappear as quickly as a trailer house in a George Jones divorce. What struck me about Nashville at that time was how little money there was to be had for recording budgets and for touring musicians and especially for writers. Recording budgets at that time were \$40,000 if you were lucky and all of the records were made by the same members of the musicians union who pretty much never left Nashville. There were only three real recording studies in town and the rest were converted houses that had usually begun recording religious

When an artist signed a record deal a Nashville producer went to work collecting songs and rehearsing them with Nashville session musicians while the recording artist and his or her road band continued to make onenight stands in their bus, which ran most of the time. The best advice artists ever got was "never sell your rights and never buy a bus" but most didn't listen. When it was time to make a record the singer and the band would roll into Nashville and the singer would learn from the producer which songs were to be sung for the new album while the band as often as not slept on the bus while the recording was done. After a week they were back on the road and would hear the new songs on the radio while driving down the road to their next gig.

#### A small town

What surprised me most about Nashville was the lack of live music venues and difficulty in making a living there. There was plenty of work but very little money and none of the artists lived there but depended on regional followings to get by. The first rung on the Nashville ladder was working as a song plugger and after a couple of tries I realized that was not to be my calling. I settled on writing promotional material for the publishing houses on a piece rate and on a good day that would pay for the gas taken to get to the interview and that was it. I discovered very quickly that while every aspiring artist new to town had a story to tell, their stories were all about the same and the ability to sing did not mean a singer had the ability to tell a good story. They started singing in church, got a guitar, learned three open chords, started playing gigs, hitchhiked to Nashville and labored for seven years before getting a record deal if they were lucky. For some reason seven years was the magic number. Each job of writing their story was like pulling teeth and before I knew it I was the President of the Nashville Writers Association (not guild since there was no union) which L soon discovered was not a paying gig. To paraphrase W.H. Russell speaking of war correspondents I was the "Miserable parent

We hung out at what was the fairly new Bluebird Café which was located in a nondescript strip center and Tootsie's Orchid Lounge which was located across an alley from the back side of the Ryman Auditorium which was then closed after the Grand Ole Opry had moved out to the edge of town and left the Ryman deserted. The bartender at Tootsie's directed me to a set of doors down the alley and the next thing I knew I was standing on the stage at the deserted Ryman right on the spot where Hank

of a luckless tribe."

Williams had stood. The acoustics in the building were impeccable and that was the high (and low) water mark of my luckless stay in that town.

#### The awards

A few years later when I went back to attend the awards ceremony I was there mostly just to have fun. Our business model in San Antonio was to hire road bands who had a night gig and put them in front of conventioneers for an early gig and a Night in Old San Antonio at La Villita. It was a sweet gig because you got paid up front as conventioneers paid in advance and you didn't have to worry about rooms for the band because they already had them. We just piggybacked on the bands the big boys hired until one of our acts, who still remains active, showed up with a snare drum and a cello and when the house full of plumbers who were expecting Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys instead got Slim Chance and the Can't Hardly Play Boys and we were out of that business.

But the awards week in Nashville was the week that the Entertainment Committee for every state fair in the country got to sit in a hotel ballroom all day and hear a string of bands who came through looking for gigs. They were middle of the pack artists on their way up and has-beens on their way down that got \$2500 a night and lived in their bus before settling in Branson where they got to put their socks in the drawers. The awards then were a laid-back event as the public mixed freely with artists and industry parties were open to all. Then everything changed.

#### The arrival of the bean counters

The paradigm shifted in Nashville in the late eighties when the method of counting record sales changed. Before that time record sales were counted on units shipped from the record plant. That meant that big record companies (or organized crime) could order a million copies of a single and store them in a warehouse and then pay radio disk jockeys to play their song that had "sold" a million copies even though no one had ever heard it. Then as it went up the charts they emptied their warehouse. It worked for everyone except the listeners who had to hear a lot of pap but then along came counting devices that were placed on cash registers in record stores across the country which actually counted units sold and when they did Garth Brooks' record went from the teens to number four in one day! All of a sudden there was money in Nashville but by that time I had given up and gone back to the journalism world. In Nashville, like in Hollywood, all of a sudden the artist had market power and everything changed.

Now County artists are made on network talent shows and once again owned by producers, recording budgets are in seven figures, and Tootsies' and the Bluebird are tourist stops and good for them. I don't really listen to country music anymore – as Willie says, "If that's country I don't know which country"- and my taste runs more toward the Americana music that has now established the Ryman as its base. I would like to go to the Americana awards one year but probably couldn't get past the back

For me it still comes back to the words of the song written by Thom Schuyler and produced by the legendary Billy Sherrill.

From the corners of the country, from the cities and the farms

With years and years of livin', tucked up underneath their arms,

They walked away from everything just to

see a dream come true, So God bless the boys who make the noise on 16th Avenue.



Downtown Nashville

#### STRs cont. from A1

the STRs on The Island since that number is not delineated in the city budget. The HOT is on track to raise about \$20 million in revenue this year with, according to city numbers in 2018, \$14.5 million of that going to pay operational cost overruns at

the Hilliard Center downtown. In past years the HOT on Padre and Mustang islands has accounted for about \$6 million of the total. The city's STR ordinance is enforced by the Code Compliance Office.

construction of a new facility to house a restaurant operation on the new pier and Chesney said this week that design of that 5000 square-foot structure is complete and a new contractor has been signed onto the project. That work is expected to begin in December with completion targeted for summer 2026.

#### Briscoe King

Also this week design engineers on the new Briscoe King Pavilion told the Nueces County Commissioners Court that the cost of the new facility to be located adjacent to the current structure has increased by \$2.1 million, raising the total cost of the project from the original projection of \$5.9 million to \$8 million. The commissioners voted this week to ask for a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) to request the increase in funding. The project is being funded through the TIRZ #2 and the board approved the original construction cost of \$5.9 million in July 2025 and that money has been transferred to county coffers awaiting completion of the design of the new

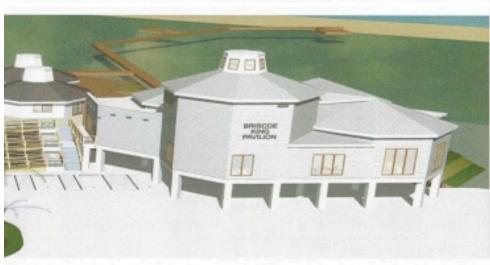
The design engineers told the commission-

ers this week the added cost of the Briscoe King project is largely due to the need for "deep pilings" as part of the structural foundation of the new facility which will also require a retaining wall around the slab-on-grade foundation to prevent erosion. The elevation of the new slab, they said, will be raised seven feet above the current elevation and the actual structure of the new building will be supported by pilings. The initial estimate of \$5.9 million came before engineering on the project began.

"We just got these numbers," Chesney said. "You just have to design to tougher standards on the island." Funds for the Island TIRZ #2 are derived from property tax on new construction inside the boundaries of the zone since its establishment in 2002. The board con-

sists of all of the members of the Corpus Christi City Council and four members of the Nueces County Commissioners Court. TIRZ #2 records show that since 2002 Nueces County has contributed just over \$16 million to the TIRZ #2 fund, the Briscoe King project is the first for which the county has requested funding. No meeting of the TIRZ #2 board has yet

been announced.





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# Nature Notes

# Turf Wars: Native vs. Nonnative

By Hannah Beckett



Photo: Invasive Species Alert - Infested Waters - Zebra Mussels - Minnesota Tony Webster, Wikimedia Commons

I'm sure most people have heard the terms "native" and "nonnative" when referring to the plants and animals that inhabit the area. But, what exactly do those words mean? And, why are they so important?

Native species are considered species that have existed historically in a certain region or ecosystem. They were here long before civilization and boast a stable, self-perpetuating population. These native species have evolved and adapted to the local climate, soil conditions, and other environmental factors to fill a specific ecological niche.

Non-native species do not originate in the area of region they are found. These species are introduced due to human activities in an ecosystem, intentionally or accidently. Non-natives don't necessarily pose a threat to local ecosystems, so long as they do not have a measurable negative impact. However, if a non-native plant has a significant negative impact in the local region, it is considered an "invasive" species.

Invasive species are non-native to an ecosystem and their introduction causes harm to the environment. Species that are invasive succeed because of their ability to grow in favorable conditions and lack of natural predators, competitors and diseases that would normally regulate their populations in their native range. If left unchecked, invasives can outcompete and reduce native species populations. This, in turn, can cause a negative cascade effect among other organisms that rely on the outcompeted native species.

There are countless examples of both non-native and invasive species found in Brazoria County. I've chosen a few to highlight and describe how these species affect our local environment.

Chinese tallow trees are extremely invasive to Texas. It's a prolific seed producer and adapts well to many conditions, easily outcompeting native vegetation. Native to China and Japan, it was introduced into the US as ornamental plantings. It quickly spread by birds and water transporting seeds creating monospecific (single species)

tallow forests in the absence of land management practices.

Zebra mussels are small mussels about the size of a dime with zebra-like striping on their shells. Originally from the Black and Caspian Sea, they were likely introduced into the US from shipping. These quick-breeding mollusks are transmitted through improperly cleaned boats and boat trailers. Zebra mussels have caused alarming declines in fish, birds, and native mussels by over-absorbing phytoplankton, an essential food source for many aquatic species. Additionally, zebra mussels will attach to any hard surface they settle on including native mussels. Excessive growth on and around native mussel beds suffocate them over time. They adhere to just about any surface and once they do, they're permanently secured. Red fire ants pose a major threat to what little remains of the original Coastal Prairie along the Texas and Louisiana coast. These insects are believed to cause dramatic reductions in native species. Insects, lizards, birds, mammals, or amphibians that disturb a fire ant's mound run the risk of being immediately attacked and even killed. Red imported fire ants often outcompete and even attack the ants that are originally from Texas. The resulting reduction of native ants is thought to be a reason for the decline of the horned toad populations.

So how can we help mitigate the harm of invasive species? Learning about the invasive species and native species of your area can allow you to locate and identify those that do or don't belong. You can remove invasive plants from your yard and use more native plants in your gardening. Volunteering with local conservation groups to remove invasives from public land is another great option to help. Our native species are well-suited to their environment, and their presence is essential for maintaining a balanced and resilient ecosystem. We should do our best to understand and support these intricate relationships of native species within ecosystems.

Beachcombing Report

Beachcoming cont. from A1



Mating ghost crabs at the waters edge

coast, ghost crabs scurry by the hundreds, darting sideways across the sand like tiny beach watchmen. But on others, they've all but disappeared. During my 40-mile round-trip Beachcombing survey this week, I couldn't help but notice the difference — some areas were full of life, while others were strangely quiet.

So where did the ghost crabs go?

Ghost crabs spend most of their lives just above the high tide line, digging burrows that can reach up to four feet deep. Even though they live above the water's reach, they still need to keep their gills moist to breathe. Fine hair on their legs help hold water so they can stay hydrated as they roam far from the surf. These burrows are their homes, offering shelter from predators, a refuge from the heat, and a place to raise their young.

On many beaches, though, those homes can be buried or disturbed by the way we maintain our shorelines. When bulldozers are used to level sand for easier driving, the top layer — and everything living in it — can get turned under. Over time, this regular reshaping makes it harder for crabs to rebuild and can alter the natural rhythm of the beach. A study completed in 2016 found burrow density of ghost crabs could be reduced by up to 50% due to mechanical beach cleaning, vehicle traffic, and dune

alterations. Researchers noted these types of disturbances can lower crab populations even when the shoreline appears healthy to the casual observer.

#### Finding a balance

Of course, there's a balance to be found. Beach maintenance helps keep our coastlines open, safe, and enjoyable for visitors, and that's an important part of coastal life and tourism. But a truly healthy beach is supposed to look a little messy. Driftwood, seaweed, and small piles of sand are all signs of a living shoreline. Where these natural features are left alone, ghost crabs thrive, feeding on everything from dead fish to bits of seaweed and helping clean the beach and recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem. Next time you walk the beach, take a look near the dunes. If you see little mounds of dry sand with holes in the middle, that's a good sign — it means the ghost crabs are still hanging on, despite the odds.

Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on You-Tube and you can follow Jace at harteresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harteresearch), Instagram (@harteresearch) and X (@HarteResearch) (the platform formerly known as

Around cont. from A1

birds, mostly brown pelicans, killed or severely injured on rookery islands across Corpus Christi Bay and near Baffin Bay. The staff at the Animal Rescue Keep in Port Aransas took in great blue herons, reddish, egrets, laughing gulls, ring-billed gulls, royal terns, forster's terns sanderlingts, ruddy turnstones, double-crested cormorants and belted kingfishers from islands up and down the coast and are still nursing them back to health.

#### Snapper season

The 2025 recreational red snapper season in federal waters will close at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, making this the longest federal red snapper season since 2007 with 173 days of offshore red snapper fishing. After the closing date, anglers in Texas state waters out to nine nautical miles can continue to keep up to four red snapper per day with a 15-inch minimum length limit.

#### Deer season

Deer season is also underway and officials at Texas Parks & Wildlife say the deer population is estimated at five million this year. Parks officials also warn that the black bear population across the state is also increasing and black bears as a protected species may not be shot. They warn against mistaking a black bear for a deer...while the Island Moon Prey Identification Department

(IMPID) suggest that if you mistake a black bear for a deer you should hold off on the Deer Sauce while shooting a firearm.

Belt sanders races turn 20
The belt sander races at The Gaff in Port
Aransas fly by in seconds and the same
goes for the first two decades of the event
as it turned twenty years old this week with
a raucous roaring of power tools with the
Moon Monkey shrieking across the line to
finish those of the same of the Monkey in the office of the the office of the Monkey in the office of the Monkey in the office of the Monkey in the office of the office o

Moon Monkey shrieking across the line to finish third. Ronnie reports that with some work in the offseason The Monkey is poised for a record run as the Winter Texans begin arriving with the improvements to their racing sanders coaxed out during months of summertime woodshedding north of The Red. Get there early every other Saturday if you want to get close enough to the track to

# hear the sanders roar! Art studio update

The Padre Island Art is now known as Evoke and has moved next door at the Compass Suites. See more information in Melissa's column in this issue and go by and check it out. It's getting artsy *Around The Island!* 

Hurricane Season 2026 is not officially over but the arrival of cool front Alejandro this week marks the practical end of the season. It's starting to smell like pumpkin spice! That's all for now everybody, keep trying to button your britches and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.





The racers gather at the Gaff's Belt Sander Races last Saturday.

# The Art of Island Life



The Art of a Colorful Refresh

By Melissa Mitchell



The Gallery's New Look - Evoke Studio & Gifts

Lately, I've been surrounded by color paintings coming off the walls, new ones waiting their turn, in every shade of the rainbow—all reminding me why I fell in love with art in the first place. There's something magical about watching how color changes a space... and how it changes us.

As we've been getting the new *Evoke* Studio & Gifts space ready, I've been reminded of that magic in a whole new way. We painted over a bold blue wall with a soft, creamy neutral—warm enough to feel welcoming but quiet enough to let the art speak. It's amazing how even one change in color can completely shift the energy of

Color carries emotion. It speaks before we ever say a word. The right shade of blue can bring a sense of calm and openness—it's why coastal tones make us breathe a little deeper. Beautiful shades of soothing green remind us of balance and renewal, the quiet strength of nature. Butter yellow infuses warmth and optimism, like sunlight spilling across a room. Shades of coral and red add energy and passion, while soft neutrals ground us and make everything else shine. Each hue tells a story, shifting the mood of a room—and the mood within us.

And while color often takes the spotlight, some of the strongest pieces are the ones in black and white or sepia—quiet, timeless works that tell their own story through contrast and light.

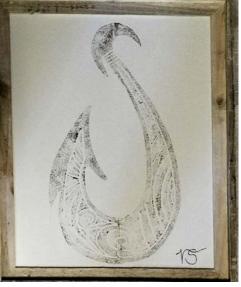
You don't need a full renovation to breathe new life into your home. Sometimes, a thoughtful pop of color (or not) is all it takes. Whether it's to brighten a corner, shift the mood, or reflect the season, small changes can make a big impact—and you don't even have to pick up a paintbrush.

As a decorator, I love using artwork as a jumping-off point. An entire room can be planned around one piece, or a single work can quietly shift the feel of a space. One bold canvas can inspire everything from throw pillows to table accents—no wall redo required.

## Where to Start

If your space is feeling a little tired, try

- Framed art or prints—One colorful piece becomes an instant focal point. A seascape with vibrant blues, a floral with bold coral tones, or an abstract with warm, golden hues adds personality and direction.
- Ceramics & pottery—Hand-thrown mugs, vases, and serving pieces in glossy glazes bring sculptural color to shelves, consoles, and kitchen counters. They're functional and beautiful—my favorite combo.



An Understated Beauty by Vanessa Spittler

#### • Pillows & throws—Never underestimate the power of textiles. Swap in two or three cushions that pull a color from your art, then layer a soft throw to tie it together.

- Notecards & stationery—Tuck art notecards into small frames, clip them to a wire grid, or style them on a bookshelf. They work as rotating mini prints and little sparks of inspiration.
- Tabletop accents—Candles, trays, and books with colorful spines can echo the hues in your artwork and make a vignette feel

#### Rotate with the Seasons

While our South Texas coast doesn't see dramatic weather swings, I still like to mark time with subtle shifts at home. Cooler tones and airy watercolors feel right for the heat of summer; come fall, I bring in deeper palettes and textured pieces that add warmth.

Rotating artwork keeps things feeling fresh—like swapping seasonal pieces in your closet, but for your walls. Think of it as sweater weather for your walls—a cozy little refresh.

Even small moves change the energy. Try placing a new ceramic dish on your entry table, layering a framed print over stacked books, or moving a favorite painting where the morning light hits it. Same piece—different story.

#### Quick Styling Tricks

- Pick a hero color. Choose one hue from your focal artwork and repeat it twicepillows and a vase, or a throw and a candle. Instant cohesion.
- Mind the mix. Balance glossy with matte, soft with structured, airy with grounded. Contrast is what makes a display come
- Vary heights. Use stacked books, pedestals, or a taller vase to create a little skyline on a console or shelf.
- Edit once. Before you step back and call it done, consider taking one thing away. It's a principle often attributed to Coco Chanel, who famously advised to look in the mirror and remove one accessory before leaving the house. The same holds true for decorating—breathing room lets color and form do their job.
- Reframe for impact. A clean, modern frame or a wider mat can make a familiar piece feel brand new.

#### Gallery Finds— No Overhaul Needed

## When you visit the gallery, look with fresh eyes. Consider how a splash of a brighter color, a sun-washed landscape, or a rich coastal sunset might complement what

you already own. From small works and handmade ceramics to vibrant statement pieces, a refresh doesn't have to break the budget. Start with the piece that makes your shoulders drop and your breath slow—that's the one that will play beautifully at home. Listen to how an art piece makes you feel and let that be your guide.

The goal isn't perfection—it's personality. A well-placed pop of color can speak volumes about your story, your style, and your state of mind. Think less about "decorating" and more about expressing what makes your space feel like home. Let color do the talking without saying a word.

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and inspiration from our coastal community. Have a story to share or an upcoming event? Reach out to me at contact@melissamitchellart.com.

Stay tuned for our official opening date announcement for Evoke!



Vibrant New Artwork by Jeanette Nickas

Monarchs cont. from A1

bloomers. I don't pretend to understand the insect mind but they do seem to congregate around a patch of the"right" flowers. But, for us, we're easy to understand. We do it for love of beauty and conservation of Wild Things.

Monarchs known by their scientific name as Danaus plexippus or even more correctly D. plexippus Linnaeus, 1758 (meaning that the species was first described by Carolus Linnaeus in 1758 a Swedish physician better known as the inventor of our modern system of scientific nomenclature). The name means "sleepy transformation" which combines the long migration of parents and eventual metamorphosis as a caterpillar and emergence of a new butterfly. According to my AI search, the common name "monarch" was in honor of king William III of England whose titles included "Prince of Orange." Now, after all that you have something to talk about with holiday guests that doesn't border on politics!

#### Threatened species?

These majestic butterflies are in serious decline and were proposed in 2024 for listing as a Threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reportedly anticipates a decision by December 2025 but with the shutdown, not to mention administration priorities, there may be additional delays and so I'm not holding my breath. Regardless of official status, protection and conservation are sorely needed. Once, their abundance was so great that tree branches in wintering grounds would sometimes break from the combined weight of so many butterflies. Unfortunately, populations have declined over 80% in the last few decades One projection indicates that the western migratory group that spends winters in California could go extinct in coming years.

Conservation measures have both helped and hindered monarch populations. While adult butterflies feed on nectar from a variety of flowering plants, the larval caterpillars only feed on milkweed species from the dogbane family (Apocynaceae). Development, herbicide use, and other factors have seriously reduced milkweed populations in many locales. An obvious conservation tactic is promoting cultivation of milkweed species. Cultivated plants can be used by professionals to re-establish lost populations and by you and me in Monarch Gardens. While one monarch garden in your yard may seem like a pittance in the big scheme of butterfly conservation, many yards with monarch gardens can greatly benefit these dandies especially during migration.

There have been problems in conservation to be solved, of course. A non-native species, tropical milkweed or Asclepias curassavica seemed a good choice since monarchs seem to really like it and it is easily propagated unlike some of the native milkweeds. However, recent research has found that because the tropical milkweed remains evergreen throughout winter the result has been an increase in the population of a microscopic protozoan parasite. The parasite is consumed by the monarch larvae as it feeds on the milkweed in the spring which can reduce survival and cause deformities that hinder flight and normal behavior of adults. Hence, it is no longer recommended for use in monarch conservation by many experts.

### Milkweed and butterfly weed

Even some native milkweed species can pose problems. A classic example is butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) which is showy and easily grown from cuttings or seed. Thus, along with tropical milkweed it is widely found in the commercial horticulture trade. The problem is that butterfly weed does not contain the milky sap that characterizes most milkweed species. The sap contains a chemical that larvae incorporate into their bodies as they feed and develop, and is passed on to the adult during metamorphosis. The chemical is toxic to birds that prey on butterflies, and young birds quickly learn to avoid monarchs after a good bellyache. But birds that feed on larvae or adults that were raised on A. tuberosa have no such learning experience because there's little to no toxin. These birds will just go on gobbling monarchs. So, butterfly weed is no longer suggested for use in monarch gardens if your goal is

preserving the butterfly species. Locally, there are a couple of common species of milkweed that have none of the drawbacks mentioned above. Donna and I have the green milkweed, A. viridis as part of our monarch support team. The green milkweed is often found on roadsides or in fields. We've had limited success transplanting from the wild because of the very deep tap root the species tends to have. Other species reported in a Padre Island National Seashore inventory by Diamond et al. (2017) include A. viridiflora (also sometimes called green milkweed) and A. oenotheroides (the zizotes milkweed), and the vine milkweed (Cynanchum angustifolium) that does indeed support monarchs even though it's in a different genus in the dogbane family. Be sure to plant with care if you have pets that like to graze on plants in your yard, or small children that might do the same. People and animals vary in their reactions to the toxins in milkweeds.

When Listening to the Wild you'll hear nature whispering that conservation is for much more than just very charismatic birds and sea turtles. And, the other whisper you hear in the background is reminding hat yards can become highly important vehicles of conservation if enough of us plant native milkweeds as part of our quest for flowers. Please feel free to whisper back to the wild --- it'll listen and nature would love to hear from you.

Numbers cont. from A1

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\$33,281 1430 Aloha Street. Puente Vista Vacation Resorts International

\$61,220 Plaza Motel

\$48,454 Gateway Motel Flour Bluff

#### Single Units Short-Term Rental \$23,629 El Constante highest grossing unit

\$23,566 Gulfstream highest grossing unit \$23,494 Bluff's Landing Marina and

\$20,998 Our Beach Times highest grossing unit on Bonasse Ct.

\$23,108 Our Beach Times 15102 Boca Grande Dr.

\$21,603 Padre Motel

Lodge

\$21,407 Cruiser St. highest grossing unit

\$20,998 Bonasse Ct. highest grossing unit

\$20,604 Pirates Landing highest grossing

\$16,629 Cottage House 14890 Granada Dr. highest grossing unit

\$13,882 Padre Beach View condos 15202 Beach Way Dr. (Windward Dr.) highest grossing unit

\$23,108 Kokomo Yacht Club highest grossing unit \$13,501 Aruba Bay Resort highest grossing

\$12,668 Aruba Beach Getaway highest

grossing unit \$11,571 Nemo Cay Cottage II highest

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By Jay Gardner

get, and the water gets colder every year.

Beach Driving and Jetty Fishing

But the water isn't that bad, and the beach

driving has been 9 out of 10 lately. I got

stood up by my fishing partner (3rd week-

end in a row!) but I bombed down to the

Mansfield jetties anyway. There was a river

of mullet along the jetties being smashed by

trout, redfish, snook, and large mangroves.

Of course, I didn't have a cast net, and they

weren't interested in 2 oz. silver spoons. I

didn't get out to the end of the jetties until

around 10am, and by that time there were

several boats fishing at the end, and no

sign of tarpon. The water has been dirty

down south for a while, and I'm wondering

The Zeps were on the beach and looking for

They looked for me in the 30's, but I wasn't

me, not realizing that I headed way down.

there of course, and the water was dirty

brown. In fact, the water looked better at

the 10-mile marker than it did in the 20's,

30's, and even 40's, where it was brown and murky. Yes, it cleared up some in the

50's, but still wasn't gorgeous, so if you're

weekend, maybe you should just stay north.

thinking about going down the beach this

I didn't see a bunch of fish being caught

I found them way up at 11, and they had

a pretty good spread of rods going. They

were catching small spinner sharks right

and left, and the kids were having a blast.

The pompano bite, however, was non-ex-

in the surf on the kayak and the action on

other people's rods. Rachel finally caught

a slot redfish, and Nash caught a shark on

My fishing partner blew through camp and

didn't even have a rod with her. Everyone

sand everywhere but wearing smiles as big

Oyster Season

CCA State meeting to provide some habitat

regarding the ongoing oyster season (or the

Matagorda Bay, and of course Aransas and

Bay for the first time! If you haven't driven

heard a prediction that they will flatten the

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Copano Bays. They closed San Antonio

up the coast lately, the boats are already out in force and scraping the bays. We

updates. We got some interesting updates

lack thereof). There are currently 8 sites open to oystering, 3 in Galveston Bay, 3 in

eased off the beach towards sunset with

I was in Houston the other day for the

headed south a solid 6 hours late, and she

his brand new rod that he won recently.

istent, so I mainly watched the kids play

what's up? So I headed back off and back

up the beach.

anyway.

as the day.

The water temperature measurements at bays up north and wind up all in our bays the Packery Channel station are hovering around 65 degrees, which is approaching wetsuit weather for many of the locals. TPWD will also keep more in touch with Then again, I love going to the beach in November and December and seeing folks down from the Midwest or upper tier, and they are splashing around in the water like back next year. they're at Miami Beach. I guess the longer you stay here, the more acclimatized you

On the Rocks

ing Certificate of Location for Conservation Leases (with the proper permitting, of course). This will allow 501c3's and other entities to maintain oyster leases for restoration and conservation purposes. off-limits to commercial harvest. It struck oysters in the Laguna Madre, the Corpus Christi Unit (TX-33) extends down to the JFK Causeway. You can't put oyster shell might see about getting a lease for a reef. You loyal readers know that I have crazy ideas sometimes.

Well folks, I gotta split out this week. There is too much going on, and I know you've missed me on the Island Moon Thursday radio show; work is going to keep me off again this week. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and I'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Rachel with a redfish



here in Copano and Aransas. This may be the shortest oyster season we've ever seen as they get shorter and shorter every year. the monitoring this year, and they are also increasing the budget for oyster license buy We also learned that the TPWD is approv-

These will be for a 15-year period, and are me as an idea, that even though there are no on seagrass, but there are other areas that I





Colton, Easton, and Nash playing with the kayak



361-658-8581

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

# Sight Fishing



Had a run of BIG BULLS last week! There has been alot of large reds working the tide between the surf and bay flats, this push of Bull reds are Post Spawn and headed back into the back reaches of our bay system. We caught this on close to Bird Island, on a DOWN SOUTH SUPER MODEL with a 1/4oz jig head.

Sight Fishing is not sight casting. Sight casting at an individual target fish and watching it take the bait can spark an addiction that can be obsessive. Sight Fishing is what I like to describe as casting to a target area with the imagery and imagination to see potential for a game fish to be there. This could be brightly contrasted sand pockets in a grass flat, picking apart each one as you glide through the area. It could be watching small schools of bait gather and act nervous along the rocks of Baffin Bay. Sending a topwater past them and imagine that baitfish skirting towards the safety and cover of the rocks. "It's too perfect, there has to be a trout patrolling that rock waiting for a bait to leave the protection of the rock pile." A few fast dashes and a stall along the edge of safety, the sound of a tail slap was all I heard. She rolled smooth like a knife, only slapping her tail when she felt the resistance of the line and bow of my rod. The mullet scattered over the rocks and then quickly ran back over to the top. A watchful eye and letting your mind relax to envision life under the sea will bring these target spots and locations to you on every cast.

Here are some things to think about while letting your eyes and mind hunt the shallows that can help make more strategic casts. When your bait hits the surface, everything in the area hears it and looks that direction. Make every stroke of the rod an effort to make your bait seem like a baitfish from impact until you pull it out of the water. Gamefish follow and wait for a perfect time to strike. Convince them each cast. Tune into your surroundings looking for small baitfish on the surface. Many times I see and catch gamefish following under small schools of minnows. Cast farther than the sand pockets and drop your bait

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REIGN this week down in the tip of Baffin Bay fishing a grassy edge.

into them. As you drift and recast, cover the same sand pocket from different angles. There are factors like the angle of the sun, wind and tide that will lend to their advantage from a certain angle to give them the opportunity to make a good strike.

Start with your lure choice and weight of your jig head, the length of cast, level of water column, and speed of retrieve all vary with the change between 1/16,1/8,1/4&1/2 oz jig heads.

Sorry out of time and on deadline with the moon monkeys, I'm sending it in! Get out and breathe in Gods Glory. Let's find YOUR DAY ON THE WATER THIS DEC AND SPRING TRIP! 361-442-8145



Everyone was taking a break during a slow period, that's when I like to take advantage of my bait being the only thing slapping the surface! My Blood Red Jerkbait landed and skirted the waves under the mid day sun. I could see it disappear as I dropped it into a isolated sand pocket. As Fall comes in, these monsters are becoming a lot more active



Quartet of White Pelicans By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Island Moon November 13, 2025



# No drippings? No giblets? No problem. Heck, you don't even need turkey

By Chris Jordan

Myriad opportunities exist for you to find yourself without gravy on Thanksgiving Day. Maybe the roasting pan scorched. Maybe The Great Giblet Heist of '25 was perpetrated by the grave-robbing ghost of a Pilgrim. Maybe you don't even have a whole turkey. Maybe you just forgot. Fear not, gravy-gobblers, there's an easy fix.

The first time I faced a dire, gravy-related predicament was Thanksgiving 2008. There was a duck-breast appetizer with port-pomegranate glaze. There was lobster bisque. I'd procured a lobe of foie gras to serve on a bed of mesclun with balsamic vinaigrette. Potato pavé had been laboriously prepared. I'd cured a ham and roasted some broccolini. My eight-year-old son, Jordan, was helping me in the kitchen, and had the attention of our guests because he was wielding a surgically sharp Japanese chef's knife. I assuaged their alarm by informing them the lad had already excised a fingertip the month before and had since magically acquired excellent knife skills.

It was at just that moment that Jordan looked up from slicing the ham. His face was so cherubic despite being located right underneath a giant, glue-reinforced, spiky mohawk. "Dad...what kind of gravy are we

Seldom have the words of a child pulled so at the heartstrings of a father. "Turkey," I said. "Turkey gravy," I reiterated to make it more believable. Jordan's expression belied his skepticism. "But we don't have any turkey," he offered. "We shall have turkey gravy nonetheless!" I proclaimed. And so the windmills of my mind began to turn in an effort to conjure any kind of holiday magic that might manifest some turkey gravy.

Turns out, the requisite holiday magic was provided by H-E-B. They were closing at noon and there wasn't much time. Of course, I wasn't the only person on a mad grocery dash. The joint was jumpin'! Crazed people of all walks were grabbing cans of green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and fried onions. I didn't go near the beer aisle, but the din of that melee could

be heard throughout the store. The cartons of turkey stock were at a safe distance from the soup and I made off with what I needed unscathed.

Now look, you all presumably know how to make turkey gravy from roasting pan drippings and giblets — and if you don't, all that jazz is just a Google search away — or an AI query away if you want an answer that's not quite right but still burned a gallon of perfectly good water to generate. That's not what this is about. This is about realizing Thanksgiving requires gravy. SOME

danced in the driver's seat and triumphantly sang to the tune of Tim Wilson's Booty Man, but about gravy instead of booty: cream gravy, brown gravy, chicken gravy, white gravy, red gravy, turkey gravy, gotta have gravy, gimme the gravy, wet gravy, dry gravy, smooth gravy, lumpy gravy, spilt gravy, slurped gravy, oh my gravy, pass me the gravy...

Back at the house, I was armed with all the necessary provisions for whipping up some turkey gravy plus various life-sustaining supplies: cornmeal and gunpowder and ham hocks and guitar strings.

I could have made any ol'kind of gravy I guess. A lesser man — maybe even Yukon Cornelius himself — might have bought a packet of powdered gravy mix — but not me, no, sir — I had developed a plan. Store-bought, unsalted turkey stock as the base liquid. Poultry seasoning, granulated garlic, onion powder, and white pepper to build complexity. Turkey base to intensify the turkey-ness, layer in some umami, and provide the salt. A cornstarch slurry thickens the liquid and melds the flavors. Was mine the very best, most authentic turkey gravy ever made? No. The situation didn't call for perfection — it called for making do. And we did. You can find everything you need for the following recipe at Lowe's Market in Port Aransas. Look for the Port Aransas Cookbook shelf-talkers on the shelf underneath each ingredient.

#### Turkey Gravy in a Pinch

Ingredients

32 ounces unsalted turkey stock 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Roasted Turkey Base 1 teaspoon onion powder 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder 1/2 teaspoon poultry seasoning 1/4 teaspoon white pepper 1/4 cup cornstarch 1/4 cup cold water

Instructions

- 1. Warm a saucepan over medium heat and whisk the Better Than Bouillon Roasted Turkey Base into the unsalted turkey stock until dissolved, then bring to a gentle sim-
- 2. Whisk in the onion powder, the garlic powder, the poultry seasoning, and the white pepper. Maintain a gentle simmer while stirring to bloom the spices evenly.
- 3. Stir the cornstarch with the cold water in a separate cup until completely smooth, reduce the heat slightly, and whisk the slurry into the simmering gravy in a steady, thin stream; return to a bare simmer and whisk

# until the texture is glossy and thickened. KIND OF GRAVY. On the way home, I You're Invited! To The Padre Island Poker Run November, 29, 2025 1-4pm **Free Local Event!** blacksheep THE ISLAN Island Moon The Anchor Beach Bar & Grill **November theme:** "Presents Under the Tree" Join us for poker, prizes, and entertainment. Please bring a new unwrapped toy or gift card for children of all ages. vent and donations will benefit the **CASA** of the Coastal Bend The caravan and sign up starts at the Black Sheep Bistro/Barrel at 1pm, continues to the ewster Street Ice House the moves to The Anchor Beach Bar & Grill at the Wyndham ho-and then finishes at The Angry Marlin Tiki Bar. Last draw and prizes at 9pm. For more Facebook @AngryMarlinRestaurant (210) 272-9973 theangrymarlin.com

# Azali Homes Building at Whitecap NPI

# Building to match Whitecap NPI's vision for lasting luxury on the Island

If you have driven the Island lately, you have seen frames rising at Whitecap NPI. Among the crews on site is Azali Homes, a Coastal Bend builder that knows our weather, our water, and our way of living.

When Whitecap NPI was looking for builders who could meet the community's high bar for design, durability, and finish, Azali Homes rose to the top. Their specialty is high-end coastal homes that feel easy to live in and stand up to Island life, which makes them a natural fit for what Whitecap NPI is becoming.

Azali Homes is led by Alex Azali, with children Sara and Karo following in the footsteps, continuing the rich family tradition. They have been building along the Texas Gulf Coast for more than twenty-years. Their reputation was earned on customization and clear guidance from first conversation to final walk-through. Owners get practical help on the design choices that reflect who they are and how they want to

As Karo Azali notes, "We will build as fast as demand drives the process. We have the resources, expertise, and a proven track record of twenty plus years to handle demand without sacrificing the level of quality this consumer base expects."

At Whitecap NPI, Azali Homes is building to Texas Department of Insurance coastal wind standards with pre-approved plans developed by Whitecap NPI. Roof systems and exteriors are designed to be easy to maintain, with the whole home planned for strength and durability. Foundations use engineered helical pilings that twist to stable layers beneath the sand, so your home sits on something solid. This is the benefit of a local builder that understands quality and the Island.

Whitecap NPI calls the look Coastal Contemporary. Clean lines. Honest materials. Shade where you want it and light where you need it, with windows that frame the views. Azali Homes carries that idea through the details.

Azali Homes did not arrive at Whitecap NPI by accident. When Diamond Beach Holdings set out to create a community that puts nature and water at its center, they needed builders who could meet a high bar for craft and consistency. Azali Homes' reputation around the Coastal Bend earned the invitation. The team understands local subs,

schedules, and the little choices that add up to quality with knowledge that comes from building here for years.

There are seventy-five first-release homesites available today, primarily on the community's north side and along the canal that leads toward the Commodores Drive Water Exchange Bridge. Azali Homes will debut multiple multi-level Showcase Home to display the range of design elements and plan options available to future residents. These Showcase Homes are slated for completion mid-2026. Azali Homes is also building on an additional homesite they purchased, a sign of confidence in the vision of Whitecap NPI. All the homes, including these, and the homesites will be exclusively sold and marketed by Strategyst LLC.

At the helm of Strategyst LLC is Arnold Seitel, founder and CEO. With decades of resort and residential experience across the U.S. and abroad, he recognizes how special Whitecap NPI is and believes in the Azali family to deliver coastal luxury to families and generations to come.

Looking ahead, the fully realized Whitecap NPI plan includes an amenity-rich landscape with a future downtown district and a state-of-the-art marina. Together with the canal network and Preserve, these pieces will give residents a immediate access to water, nature, friends, and neighbors.

Visit the Whitecap NPI Sales Center to secure your homesite and discuss how your family can be part of the Whitecap Family. The team is available seven days a week and more than happy to serve.



Karo and Sara Azali.

# Last day without a traffic facility in Texas November 7, 2000

Every single day for the past quarter century a Texan has died in a crash somewhere in

November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roads, and since then the state has lost more than 91,000 people in traffic crashes. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is asking everyone to help #EndTheStreakTX of daily deaths.

dTheStreakT)

#### Corpus Christi district

12,062 traffic crashes in TxDOT's Corpus Christi District in 2024. Counties in the Corpus Christi District are Aransas, Bee, Goliad, Jim Wells, Kames, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio.

107 fatalities

415 serious injuries

#### City of Corpus Christi

- 7,238 traffic crashes in the city of Corpus Christi in 2024 resulting
  - 43 fatalities and
- 128 serious injuries



## State News

# Recognizing Veterans

State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

The month of November is a time to recognize the sacrifices of the men and women that served in the armed forces. U.S. veterans have made major sacrifices for The United States, so it is important to honor them for their service. In Texas, there are several programs that seek to help and assist our current and former members of the military. These programs are spread across different state agencies that work to implement and administer them. According to the Texas Veterans Commission, Texas is home to around 1.4 million veterans. Many have chosen to stay in Texas or move to Texas from somewhere else due to the great programs that are in place to help assist our service members. Texas has many resources that are managed by a wide range of state agencies, but the two primary agencies are the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) and the Veterans Land Board (VLB).

#### Texas Veterans Commission

The Texas Veterans Commission was established in 1927 and was originally designated as the State Service Office. It was tasked with assisting those veterans of the Native American wars, Spanish-American War, and World War I. The intention of creating this agency was to act as the state appointed advocate of the veterans in Texas. Today, the TVC works to try and help both current and former members of our military to secure the benefits they have earned through their service. According to their website (http://www.tvc.texas.gov/), there are four program areas in which they can be of assistance:

- Claims: this department serves veterans, their dependents and survivors, in all matters pertaining to veterans' disability benefits and rights. It is the designated agency of the state of Texas to represent the State and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- Employment: this department offers employment services to Texas veterans and helps employers find qualified veteran job applicants. The goal of these services is to match veteran job seekers with the best employment opportunities available.
- Education: this department approves all programs for Chapter 30, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607 federal educational benefits. Through an approval process, the Texas Veterans Commission ensures that institutions and



employers are in compliance with federal guidelines and are qualified to provide the type of training offered.

• Grants & Funding: The Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant program awards reimbursement grants to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies, and Veterans Service Organizations that provide direct services to Texas Veterans and their fami-

#### Texas Veterans Land Board

In addition to the TVC, the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) helps military men and women after they return from service. The VLB was created in 1946 with the mission of administering benefits that were exclusively for Texas veterans. Some of the programs at the VLB help our service members with obtaining low interest loans on land, homes, home improvements as well as home programs to help provide longterm care services for our Texas veterans. If you would like to learn more about these programs and the VLB, please visit their website at: http://www.glo.texas.gov/vlb/

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

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District

Rep. Hunter represents Aransas County and part of Nueces County. He can be contacted at todd.hunter@house.texas.gov or at

512-463-0672





# Thoughts from Reverend Ken

Bv Rev. Dr. Ken

In last week's edition of The Island Moon, we learned about two new cameras for our island sandbar. We can view the traffic on the JFK Bridge, and we can view the surf near Packery Channel and the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. This will certainly be of great assistance in our decision making for any given day. Surf or OTB?

We are a culture seeped in video. YouTube, TikTok and other media sites can mesmerize us for hours. Producers of these videos can even become stars on Dancing With the Stars! I can be anywhere in the world and get video notification of someone at my door. Our daughter-in-law once texted us while we were watching our grandsons. They were out of their beds playing. She saw it via video from the restaurant on her phone!

Video cameras capture planes and vehicles crashing, storms hitting, and criminal activity. Surveillance video is used every week to solve a crime on Law and Order.

We tend to navigate the omnipresence of video and surveillance with resignation. It would seem to be the costs of the comforts, safety, and convenience of modern technology. Meanwhile, we push back against the notion of an always present God whose watchful gaze seems unsettling for our preferred status quo of complacency. We think judgment when we think about the gaze of God upon us. We look for the t-shirt that says, "Please God, don't let me behind Mother Teresa at Judgment Day."

Judgment carries a negative connotation for many. The exception of course is our judgment of others. That comes easily. We ourselves tend to dislike being scrutinized and evaluated, especially if we assume we will be deemed inadequate.

We tolerate the surveillance of our day because we think it to be impersonal. We have made our peace with being watched as long as those watching ask nothing of us except our data. Divine judgment, however, will always lay us bare.

Eastern Orthodox churches have long captured the spiritual reality of Christ ruling over the earth through the icon, Christ Pantocrator. Pantocrator comes from a Greek compound word comprised of "all" and "strong." Christ Pantocrator is often painted or rendered in mosaic tiles inside a church dome or high up on a wall. Christ is the Lord Almighty ruling on high. The gaze of

Christ Pantocrator typically holds the New Testament in his left hand and raises his right hand in blessing. His head is surrounded by a golden halo, sometimes accompanied by the words, "He who is." The expression on his face appears as stern even somber. His eyes seem sad. Gazing upwards at this melancholy visage, worshipers may get the impression that, looking down upon the earth, the cosmic Christ doesn't much like what he sees. Judgment follows the gaze like a shadow.

punitive condemnation. However, this doesn't square with biblical portrayals that emphasize the redemptive nature of God's judgment. God seeks to restore rather than cruelly reproach. If we think that a God who judges is a relic of an outdated, oppressive, and legalistic system we fail to account for how divine judgment nurtures human flourishing by calling us to live in love, humility, and service to others. The gaze of Christ calls us away from a

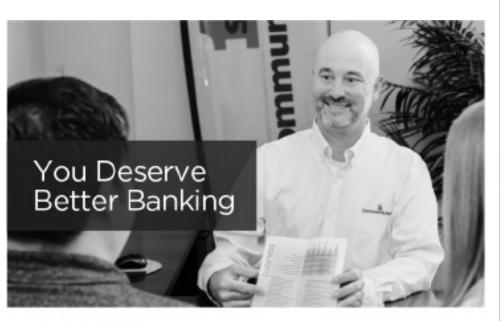
The notion of a judging God exercising

divine judgment might evoke harsh and

fear-based view of God's presence. The gaze of Christ who reigns on high is no distant stare, no cold and vacant eye in the sky. It calls we who are the scattered to connection and weaves we who are many into community. In our society, the lens of surveillance divides and distorts, severing soul from soul and sight from truth. We get a house of mirrored walls where each is watched, yet none are known.

The ever-watchful gaze of Christ is not an intrusion. It is loving gift. It is a guiding presence that gives life meaning and direction. The gaze of Christ unsettles not because it's oppressive but because it is intimate. The love of Christ judges, not to condemn but to make whole. In a world where we are constantly submitting ourselves to invisible gazes, may we recognize the one gaze that truly sees us in redeeming and restoring love.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans also gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working



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Commun

Dan Herrington, Vice President, NMLS# 562367

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Island Moon November 13, 2025



### Traveling with a "Baby" Shield

The ocean can be a dangerous place for juvenile fish, but researchers recently discovered a way some of them ward off predators—carrying around a baby. A baby anemone, that is. Divers off the coasts of Palm Beach, Florida and Tahiti have photographed evidence of a particular kind of symbiotic relationship between young fish and larval anemones. Symbiotic relationships are ones where at least one species benefits from the activity. In a mutualistic relationship, like this one, both benefit. In this case, the juvenile fish receives protection from becoming another fish's dinner, and the anemone gets a free ride far beyond its birthplace.



Captured using blackwater photography, a young jackfish carries a larval anemone. Credit: Linda Ianniello

Researchers used blackwater photography—a technique of taking photos in the open ocean at night—to snap pictures of filefish, driftfish, pomfrets, and a young jack swimming around with larval anemones in their mouths. Anemones are already part of a well-known mutualistic partnership with clownfish, which shelter in grown anemones, eat their leftover food scraps while keeping the anemones free of parasites, and circulate water around them. In this newly discovered relationship, the mutualism is short-term but has potentially long-term ramifications for anemone populations. Larval anemones can only travel so far on their own, but being carried further afield by fish means expanding their range.

The small fish, meanwhile, carry the anemone almost like a defensive shield; anemones pack a nasty sting that predators would likely want to avoid. The sting might not kill a fish that tries to take a bite, but it's a far less tempting meal. The exciting discovery has now raised more questions for scientists to explore: How far and how long do the fish carry the anemone? Do they swap them out? How many anemones survive the trip? What exactly triggers fish to pick up anemones in the first place? Only further study may reveal some of these answers.



# www.ScienceAndTheSea.org

© The University of Texas Marine Science Institute



# Gene's Corner

"This page intentionally left blank"



By Gene Saegert

Some of you may have already experienced this, but for some reason it really bugs me. I got one of those insurance packages the other day from a large insurance company which will remain nameless. It included 12 sheets of paper. I began to read the policy and everything was proceeding nicely until I ran across the page that said (and for those of you who may not have experienced this, I am not making this up) "This page left blank intentionally"

Now insurance papers are confusing to me

anyway but this really got to me. Several thoughts immediately came to mind. First of all it distracted me just when I thought I was starting to understand the insurance terminology. Of course there is the fact that I sometimes get distracted by shiny objects lying on the ground, but this is different. Secondly, this is a big insurance company and this would waste enough paper to wipe out a rain forest in Tasmania, and weasels and Tasmanian Devils would no longer have a place to hide. Not to mention, if all the trees were gone, then for sure you

wouldn't be able to check out my "If a tree fell in the forest theory" which I will most likely cover at a later date.

Next problem and the most puzzling part to me is this: If there is writing on the page, then the page is not actually blank.... And it doesn't take Nancy Drew or the Hardy Boys to figure out that they wrote on the page intentionally! Or did they?

Now they could have said "The following page is left blank intentionally" or on the following page they could have said that "The previous page was left blank intentionally." It is so confusing that what's left of my brain is starting to hurt. Wait, now by jove I think I have got it, the answer is....oh, oh what is that shiny object on the floor....?

I leave you with this thought for the day. If the government gave a grant for the study of stupidity, shouldn't they just keep the







Pink Flamingo Pub crawl getting set up last week at the beach. Photo by Steve Coons

November 13, 2025

#### Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available. Play at your own risk!

Across

1. Cocktail flavorers

10. Le Sage novel "Gil \_\_\_"

14. Irregularly notched

16. German automaker 17. "Back to business!"

6. Honshu peak

15. A part of

20. Flowery ring

22. Israeli desert 23. Twosomes 26. Voltaire novel

28. Exemplars 30. Soft cheese 31. Move furtively

33. Brief briefs?

41. Hole up

43. A lot

horse

42. Greedy king

40. Hook's sidekick

44. Aptly named flight

49. "Giant" star Sal

50. Cut at an angle

51. Tryst murmur

52. Make darker

60. Berth place

63. Messes up

verb

61. Part of WWW

55. Broker's pamphlet

62. Canadian skater Brian

64. Passé marriage vow

65. Start of a tot's song

45. Sitting on normally, as a

32. Like the fabled piper

37. 1968 Steppenwolf hit

21. Irritate

Going Easy On You...

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

#### Knuckle-Cracker

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

#### *Mind-Numbing Frustration*

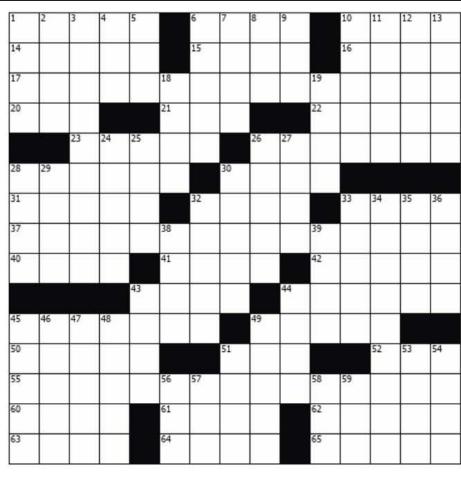
							5	
	6		3	7		1		
8		7	4					3
			2			5		
	3		6		8		4	
		9			3			
9					4	8		1
		3		2	9		7	
	8							

#### Brain-Buster

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

# Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page



#### Down

1. Intense enthusiasm Author \_\_\_ Stanley

Gardner

advantage 4. Disapproving sound

3. Considerable

Cinque follower

6. Bona \_\_\_ (good faith) 7. Computer operating

system

8. Singer/actor Bon Jovi

9. Like Beethoven's minuet

10. Stationed

11. Super Mario's brother

12. Included

13. It's full of holes

18. Blockbuster rentals

Songstress Murray

24. Bush or Kerry

brother

26. Brunch selection

25. Evelyn Waugh's

27. Assistant

28. Theories

29. Geom. measure 30. 1984 Matthew

Modine title role

32. "The Age of Reason" author

Thomas

33. One in front of a

train?

34. Predecessor of 18-

Down

35. June 6, 1944

Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_

Seko

38. Punch card remnant

Ness team 43. Wire measures 44. Donnybrook

45. Tolerate 46. Title for

ventriloquist Wences 47. Den combo unit

48. Really smells

49. Wallet filler

51. Relinquish 53. Picked from a

lineup

54. Like mortals?

56. Common ticket booth request

57. Playground marble

58. \_\_\_ few rounds (spar)

59. Metro area

Sixteen Years Ago in the Island Moon

# Groundbreaking for Maryann's Way

Sixteen years ago this week city officials gathered at the west end of Whitecap Boulevard to break ground on the park called Maryann's Way.

The park was named in honor of Islanders Maryanne Simonelli who was killed there in a traffic accident while walking in 2005. Three years later in 2008 the work on the park was done and these photos ran in the Island Moon.









Dredging continued in the canals around Commodores Point

# Moon Classifieds #1126

# Here's how to place a Classified Ad To place an ad call: 361-949-7700 or Email your ads to: editor@islandmoon.com No texts please Costs start at \$15 for 25 words 25 cents a word after that Pictures or art additional \$5.00

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25 cents a word after that
Pictures or art additional \$5.00
Small charge for larger ads
Ads with payment can be taken to
our office at:
14646 Compass St., Suite 4
Deadline for classified ads is no
later than NOON on Tuesday

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLICATION We accept: American Express, Visa,

American Express, Visa, MasterCard Al-Anon & AA Meetings

# Alcoholics Anonymous Sunset 7 AA Group Meets four times per week on North Padre Island Monday Wedgesday & Friday

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
7 pm at Island
Presbyterian Church,
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV
Park Open Pavilion
15820 Park Rd 22.
(In bad weather, the Sunday
meetings will
be indoors at IPC)

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15 Nov

Sat 🛂

14 Nov

Fri 🛂

#### GRIEFSHARE SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

OCATION: Padre Island Baptist Church 14253 S. Padre Island Drive Corpus Christi, TX 78418

DATE & TIME: Thursday, November 20, 2025 (One time – 2-hour session)

TIME: 9:30 am to 11:30 am or 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm CONTACT: Lore Heavilin – GriefShare@theislandchurch.com -1-865-548-5535

FEE: \$10.00 registration fee – No childcare – Scholarships available

TO REGISTER GO TO: griefshare.org/ findagroup

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# **Crossword Solution**

Z	Е	S	Т	S		F	U	J	I		В	L	Α	S
Е	R	0	S	Е		I	N	О	N		Α	U	D	I
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#### Tides of the Week

Sun 🋂 Mon 🛂

17 Nov

**18 Nov** 

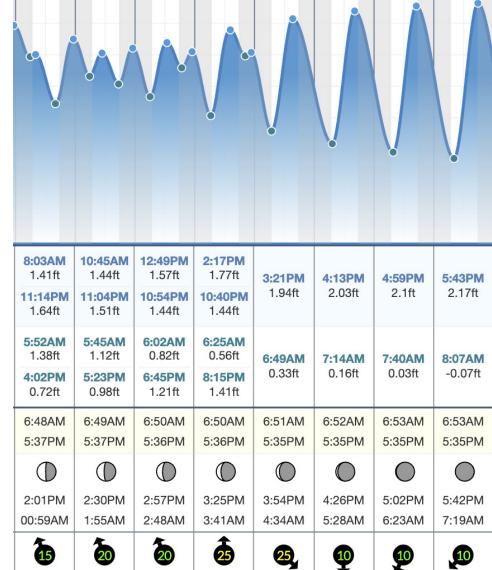
Tue 🛂

19 Nov

20 Nov

Thu 🛂

16 Nov



November 13, 2025

# Whooping cough cases at eleven-year high

The state has recorded more than 3,500 cases of whooping cough so far this year, 10 times the number in 2023

The Texas Department of State Health Services this week <u>reported</u> more than 3,500 cases of whooping cough through October, quadruple the number of cases during the same period last year, which saw a total of 1,907 cases, according to initial data. The total so far is also 10 times the number of cases for all of 2023. This is the second consecutive year the state's health agency has had to issue a health alert.

Texas Department of State Health Services most recent alert, published Nov. 3, noted that more than half of last year's cases occurred in November and December, suggesting whooping cough cases will continue to climb.

Whooping cough cases in Texas and the United States were lower than usual during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, but activity has quickly rebounded over the last few years. The recent rise in whooping cough in Texas follows a national trend. In 2024, there were more than 35,000 documented cases, a significant jump from 7,063 in 2023. Two babies have died from the disease in Louisiana this year, as well as a child in South Dakota and an adult in Idaho. Preliminary data from the Texas health

agency indicate that approximately 85% of whooping cough cases in Texas this year have occurred in children, but no deaths have been reported.

# Skipper Tales

#### **Gone With the Wind**

By: Tess Clark

Gone with the wind are the summer crowds.

The laughter, the coolers, the sounds. The long hot days, the beachside noise, Fade out as the wind blows 'round.

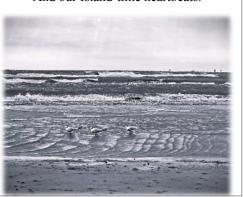
This morning came with whispers first, A drizzle soft and gray. Then the stillness quickly burst, And pushed the Gulf waves sideways.

Their screams lost to the wind's roar. The pelicans rock in the faded light, As their squadrons drift offshore.

Gone with the wind are the gulls that fight,

The sand turned wild beneath our feet, It stung, but felt alive. Mother Nature cleaning her beach, Its beauty and will to survive.

Gone with the wind are the summer days, The crowds, the noise, the heat. What's left is ours, this stretch of coast, And our Island-time heartbeats.



# La Posada Schedule

The La Posada Lighted Boat Parades and the events leading up them now one month away. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday December 3 Whitecap NPI Tree Lighting

Thursday December 4 Kick-Off Party at Hardknocks Sports Grill. Doors open at 6:30pm Music by DLB DJ Entertainment

#### The lighted Boat Parades

Friday December 12 7:00 pm televised by KRIS 6 at Doc's Waterline. Register your boat to participate at Laposadadfoun-

Saturday December 13 Parade begins at 6:00 at Caravel Boat Ramp







Decorated boat in the La Posada Parade



**NO LONG LEASE AGREEMENT!** 

OLIMATE CONTROL ON SITE MANAGER OPEN 7 DAYS ELECTRONIO GATE ACCESS VIDEO SURVEILLANOE

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(361) 937-8673

M-F 8:30-6:00

10514 S.R.I.D.

# The History of the Calallen Reservoir 23 miles of the Nueces River are below sea level

Editor's note: The city reservoir in Calallen came up in discussion at the Corpus Christi City Council this week and the city's chief of engineering sent us this story of a forgotten piece of local history.

By Jeff Edmonds

P.E. Director of Engineering Services City of Corpus Christi

In the late 1800's, the City of Corpus Christi was having difficulty supplying fresh water to the population. City Council explored several alternatives including groundwater wells and utilizing Tule Lake for a reservoir. Ultimately, council decided to utilize the Nueces River and built a pumping and filtration plant 13 miles upstream from the river mouth. That location is near the current-day Labonte Park.

Unfortunately, the bottom of the Nueces River is below sea level for 23 miles upstream of the mouth. That resulted in the water works frequently distributing saline water to the city when there were low flows in the Nueces River or high tides in Nueces Bay. The City needed a solution to prevent drawing salt water into the filtration plant intake. In 1892, the City built the first temporary dam with a crest that was 1.5' above mean sea level (MSL). That first dam was constructed of 3,000 sandbags. Although functional, it would need to be reconstructed after any significant storm.

The City sought and received authorization from the state legislature in 1895 to construct a permanent dam that would create a permanent reservoir. By 1898, the City built a more robust dam consisting of timbers and rocks. The permanent dam maintained the crest elevation of 1.5' above sea level. That created a reservoir with a normal pool area of 100 acres and held roughly 300 million gallons of water. That met the City's needs water supply for over a decade.

By 1914, however, the water works limits were again being taxed. The City found that during times of low flow, if the level of the Calallen reservoir were brought too low, the water seeping from the bed and banks was reported to average 3,000 ppm of chlorides which is about 16% the chloride level of seawater and is about five times the maximum desirable levels in potable water. The City decided that elevating the dam crest could help maintain adequate water levels in the reservoir and help mitigate the

The City petitioned the state in 1914 to add one foot to the dam crest thus increasing it to 2.5' above MSL. Construction to increase the crest elevation of the Calallen Dam was completed in 1916. This was done by adding additional rock and timber cribbing. The storage capacity was increased by roughly 35 million gallons for a total of 335 million gallons. By the late 1920's, the City was

When the Calallen reservoir was pumped too low, salt water would seep from the bed and banks. That limited the amount that could be pumped from the reservoir.

Engineers estimated that the City could pump 2 million gallons per day for 60 days of no inflows. Unfortunately, daily demands at that time were reaching 2.8 million gallons per day. In 1931, the City petitioned the State Board of Water Engineers to raise the Calallen dam once again to a crest elevation of 3.5' above MSL. Construction of the dam modification was completed in 1931. By the mid-1920's, in became evident that the Calallen reservoir could not be relied on for much longer to satisfy freshwater needs for the growing city. Design began on the La Fruta Dam in 1926. Construction started in 1927 and was completed in 1930. The La Fruta dam unfortunately failed during its first year of operation due to a design error. It was reconstructed at the same location and went back into operation in 1934.

By the 1950's, the City once again needed to augment water supplies. The Wesley Seale dam was completed in 1958 just downstream of the La Fruta Dam. Although the water delivery system has evolved over time, the configuration has basically been the same since 1930. The upstream reservoirs are used to feed the Calallen Reservoir which fed the City's filtration plant as well as other users. Without the storage in the upstream reservoirs, the Calallen pool would be able to only supply a tiny fraction of the system's demands. By 1950, the City was once again having difficulty managing water levels in the Calallen pool. There is a two-day travel time for releases from Wesley Seale dam to reach the Calallen Reservoir. There are other raw water users besides the City withdrawing from the Calallen Reservoir. The Calallen Reservoir is also fed by rainfall inflows downstream of Wesley Seale. It was becoming increasingly difficult to avoid drawing the water level too low or spilling water over the dam

In 1951, the City received permission from the State Board of Water Engineers to raise the crest elevation by one foot to 4.5' MSL That construction was completed in 1952. From the temporary dam that was first installed in 1892, the Calallen dam went through 4 evolutions ending with the 1952 project that is currently in place. While the city's demands have dramatically outstripped the ability of the Calallen Reservoir to supply, it still remains an essential component of the city's water supply system. Without the Calallen Reservoir, it would be impossible to efficiently manage the delivery of Nueces River water supplies to Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend.

Reference List: Atlee M. Cunningham, 2000. Corpus Christi Water Supply – Documented History 1852 - 1997. Republished by Nueces Press.



The Calallen Reservior just south of the Labonte Park Spillway

Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour ronnienarmour@gmail.com



And the Moon Monkey joins the winner's circle last Saturday at the 20th Anniversary of the Gaff's Belt Sander Races.

As we ease into the change of seasons one thing is for sure... we can always count on the Gaff to host plenty of fun and sometimes goofy events that pair well with beer. Case in point, it was the Belt Sander Races 20th Anniversary last Saturday. Let that sink in. Proprietor Kip Shannon opened the Gaff in 2005 after moving to Port A from Austin, where he was manager of the famed Sholtz Beer Garden. I didn't come on the scene until 2008 when I lived in my van on the beach but I immediately bonded with the Gaff. I would go there every morning and have coffee and breakfast with Kiwi and then go on about my day learning to be a beach bum from the big city. In short, I adore the Gaff and feel a special kinship to the place. So I was especially fired up for the big race last Saturday and actually made it back into the winner's circle with my **Moon** Monkey placing a respectable third place out of 19 drivers. I want to give credit to our in-house pit boss, Rusty Daniels for keeping our racers and the track itself in fine working order. He also ramrods the races from the trenches while Kip calls the event from his perch overlooking the racetrack. It's a well honed machine. I also want to thank Straw Malcolm for making the Island Moon a spiffy new sign for the event. Our old banner basically fell apart through the years. I congratulate you Kip and everyone associated



Kip Shannon and his chicken Lucky's Chicken Poop Bingo is back this Saturday at 3 PM.

with the Gaff like Heidi, Rose, Lee, Tamara, John Paul, JJ and all the musicians that call it home. Also, kudos are especially due to Summer Miller for broadcasting this race on TikTok which garnered over 12K views from all over the world. So watch for the Gaff's upcoming seasonal events like CHICKEN POOP BINGO on the 15th and the world famous TURKEY BOWL on the 30th and I'm sure you already know the BELT SANDER RACES are held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month Pro tip: smart money' on the Moon Monkey.

#### Play it again Coach...



Jim Dugan plays the Gaff every Saturday and Shorty's every Sunday afternoon.

Coach Big Jim Dugan is a well known name in these parts. He plays every Sunday at Shorty's

and every Saturday at the Gaff and plays the Brewster Street Ice House on the Island and other local haunts occasionally. Jim is my buddy and a retired high school coach. The first thing I ever wrote about him in these pages over a decade ago said something like, "he only knows three chords and sings a tinge off key, but I bet he knows 500 songs off the top of his head and by the time his show is over everyone in the crowd will call him their friend." All of that still goes except he now might know four chords... maybe five at most. Go see him perform sometime and see if you can't stump the band. He pretty much knows them all. When's the last time you heard Mr. Bojangles?

Scattered shots...



*The Drive played Shorty's last Saturday.* 

Last weekend I caught a few shows mainly at the Gaff, Shorty's and the Sip Yard. Bron's and *Treasure Island* have their live music programs on hold right now. I wanted to go to Rockport for all the cool shows John Macy and the songwriter society had going at the Harbor Listening Room; Rodney Crowell, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Butch Hancock, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Keith Sykes, Richard Leigh, etc. However I did catch Whiskey Down for some good old southern cooking like Lynyrd Skynard and the Allman **Brothers**. They're really good at what they do. Also the Sip Yard had the 8-Bit Serenade on Friday. It was harder edged cover rock. It was the first time I'd seen them and I was impressed... fast licks and tight vocals. I also saw The Drive at Shorty's. They play there pretty regularly and for good reason. It's classic rock but what the cool kids listened to, grungy 90's alt rock. On Friday last week I also got to hear some foot stompin' Cajun/zydeco from our Louisiana pals **Boudreaux and Pousson**. When I walked they were singing something about a chicken. Works for me.

#### Coming this weekend...

Shorty's new residency every Thursday with the **All Starz** is with a rhythm section we all love and adore; Art Galvan on bass and Antone Perez on drums. They bring in a different guitarist/ vocalist each week such as Ray Summy and Reno Perez and its starting to catch some traction. Check them out! Coming this Friday Off the Railz led by front man Zachary Rodriquez from Dallas will play the Sip Yard, looper Brad Ethridge will throw down at Shorty's and slide guitar maestro Robert McCoy will play the Gaff. On Saturday, Shorty's goes punk rockgrunge-country-jazz with Red Feather led by Eddie Alaniz aka: Ejey. This cat is a bonafied trip and a unique artist in every way... he gonna blow your little mind. Prepare to be impressed. Also on Saturday, Thomas Baviak from Dripping Springs will play the Sip Yard... his bio says, "all I want to do is wiggle my voice." Okee Dokee now. Plus on Saturday, Coach Big **Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff* as he does every Saturday. On Sunday, Coach Dugan moves it down the street to *Shorty's* and is followed by the mighty mighty Ty Dietz, who needs no introduction.

#### On the horizon...

On the near horizon Intocable will play the Selena Auditorium on November 21st. They are an American band from Zapata, Texas that plays regional Mexican music; specializing in norteño and tejano music. Yall be safe out there.

ISI And, that's the truth ISI

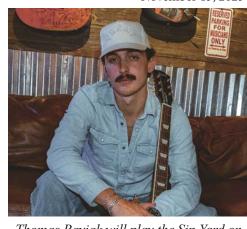


Off The Railz from Dallas will play the Sip Yard on Saturday.





Ejey Eddie Alaniz with Red Feather will play Shorty's on Saturday.



Thomas Baviak will play the Sip Yard on

# LIVE MUSIC TONG-IT

#### Thursday, November 13

All Starz @ Shortys Tyler Jordan @ Gaff

#### <u>Friday,</u> November 14

Off the Railz @ Sip Yard Brad Ethridge @ Shorty's Robert McCoy @ Gaff Garry Mitcham @ VFW Port A National Nobodyz @ Pelican Lounge Alley Catz @ Nucky's Dreaming in Color @ Whalebone The Groove @ Fifth & Elm Portland Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown Darrell McCullough

#### Saturday, November 15

Fulton

@ Wine Bar RP

Lucky Dogz @ Lulu's

CHICKEN POOP BINGO 3:00 @ Gaff Red Feather @ Shorty's Thomas Baviak @ Sip Yard Jim Dugan @ Gaff Groove @ VFW Port CC Beer Fest @ Heritage Park John Cortez @ Cassidy's Philip Griffin Band @ Pelican Lounge Diamond's Edge @ Rockit's Alley Catz (a) Tannins South 8-11 Alley Catz @ Surf Club 1-4 Lucky Dogz @ Hideout 35 Jam Band @

#### <u>Sunday,</u> November 16

@ RP Market Days

Headliners RP Tailgate Troubadours

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's Brad Ethridge @ Gaff



# Treasure Island

Busted Bicycle Craft Cocktails Tues-Sunday Open at 5:00

## November 17 Faith Kelly @ Pelican

Lounge

#### Tuesday, November 18

Brad Ethridge @ VFW Joe Bonamassa@ Hilliard Center Carl Hayes Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin Rich Lockhart @ Packery Bar Los Locals @ Palm Republic

# Wednesday,

November 19 Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff Cleartones @ VFW Port A Ejey- Eddie Alaniz @ Pelican Lounge Alley Catz @ Tannins

# OFF THE RAILZ

**THOMAS BAVIAK CHAINLINKS CRUISE CONTROL CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY** 

November 20 All Stars @ Shortys John Cortez @ House **NOV 14** of Rock **NOV 15** Alley Catz @ Peps **NOV 21 NOV 22 NOV 28** 

South

Thursday,

## Friday, November Intocable @ Selena

Auditorium Boone Holding @ Shorty's Chainlinks @ Sip Yard Jim Bush @ Gaff Carson Miller @ VFW Red-Taylor Swift Trib BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT @ House of Rock **NOV 14** Any Colour You Like NOV 15 @ Pelican Lounge NOV 15 & 22 Alley Catz @ Brewster South Dreaming in Color @ **NOV 28** Retro The Groove @ Sugar

OPEN JAM EVERY WED WITH BRAD

ROBERT MCCOY

**BOUDREAUX & POUSSON** 

JIM DUGAN

JIM BUSH

JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12

**BRAD ETHRIDGE RED FEATHER BOONE HOLDING** JOHN CORTEZ **IERRY WARD** 

<u>November 22</u> **BELT SANDER** RACES @ Gaff Jim Dugan @ Gaff **NOV 14** John Cortez @ Shorty's **NOV 15** NEF @ Pelican Lounge **NOV 21** Cruise Control @ Sip **NOV 22** Yard

Shack RP

<u>Saturday,</u>

The Groove @ South **NOV 28** TX Icehouse







BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY

COLD BEER

HE GAFF

LIVE MUSIC

HOT PIZZA



OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM