

Issue 985



Business Briefs A2

Flour Bluff ROTC B15





The print version of the Island Moon will now be distributed each Friday. The

digital version will be avail-

able at noon each Thursday on islandmoon.com and on

Facebook at theislandmoonnewspaper.

Island Moon

Rain Report

January & February

Padre: Aquarius St.

2023 year to date 0.36"

2022 year to date 2.77"

Padre: Cayo Cantiles

2023 year to date 0.58"

2022 year to date 2.57"

2023 year to date 0.70"

2022 year to date 3.33"

2023 year to date 0.61"

2022 year to date 3.33"

Padre: Dyna St.

Padre: Elbow St.

Padre: Scallop St.

Nature Notes A8 Stuff I Heard A5

Island Moon Weekly

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

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 3, 2023

www.islandmoon.com





By Dale Rankin

There is a lot going on Around the Island this week so let's roll.

Jetty barge

As we go to press mid-week the rusty barge on the South Packery Jetty is set to be removed by week's end. Divers have been busy all week in preparation for dragging the barge onto the beach to be cut into pieces. The work is weather permitting but is scheduled for completion no later than March 13.

JFK lanes

District 4 Councilman Dan Suckley this week said all four lanes on the JFK Bridge will be opened by this weekend, March 3 and no anticipated lane closures are planned during Spring Break 2023, March 4 - March 19. Some additional incidental work will be performed by the contractor below the bridge deck during Spring Break, but will not impact traffic. Following Spring Break, the contractor will implement shortterm lane closures for other bridge work, including overlay and rail replacement. These short term closures will only occur between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The city contract calls for all four lanes to remain open through Hurricane Season 2023 which begins June 1. After eighteen months the end is

in sight everybody.



We get regular calls here about the dilapidated boat that lives in the water next to The Boathouse Bar & Grill on Leeward. It is the third boat to die there but the first one that was still tied to the dock. The Texas General Land Office has placed a barrier around the boat to prevent any petroleum product from leaking but given the time that boat has been there that seems unlikely. The first two boats that took up permanent residence there were sailboats and once they barnacled into the bottom they became the property of the owner of the surrounding land who also owns the bottom. The current boat is different in that, while it has no discernable numbers to identify the owner, because it is tied to the dock it is the responsibility of either the boat owner or the property owner. If it busts loose and moves outside the footprint of the underwater easement attached to the building then once again it become the property of the owner of the lake and bottom. For now it doesn't appear to be going anywhere fast; think of it as Island

Color.

Back to the Drawing Board for design of new Bob Hall Pier \$22.4 million available Design process to start anew

By Dale Rankin

The three engineering companies hired to design the new Bob Hall Pier will have to go back to the drawing board according to an update to the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board this week.

Nueces County has hired three separate engineering firms to draw up a design for the new pier but when the first draft was presented to the park board a second consultant rose to inform the board that the pier as designed cannot be built for the \$22.4 million available in the fund to rebuild the pier after damage caused by Hurricane Hanna in 2020 damaged it beyond repair.

"You can't build that pier for \$22.4 million," the design engineer said, after the initial presentation of a new plan for the pier. The cost of rebuilding the pier has increased by \$1.5 million in the past year due to rising construction costs, according to the consultants who were requested by the board to look for ways to downsize or

redesign the pier to bring the cost in at the \$22.4 million available.

The design for the new pier was thirty percent complete in June, 2022, when objections were raised by surfers that the single row of pilings in that plan would inhibit surf conditions and the second row of pilings were added to the plan.

The cost of demolishing the old pier was \$2.3 million. The initial funds approved for the rebuild-

Bob Hall Cont. on page A3

Funding the Island Blast

How the Island's Fourth of July Fireworks Show becomes a Reality



By Nick Colosi and Todd A. Hunter Jr.

Directors of the Island Blast

Many Islanders have asked how is the Island Blast funded, what does it cost and who is involved in the event? We, the Directors, will provide some information.

The Island Blast is completely donations individuals, Island organizations no public money of any kind. Donations should be tax deductible through the Island Blast 501c3 status. The 2023 Blast will cost approximately \$24,400 to pay for the pyrotechnic company and approximately \$1,500 for insurance, permits, licenses, fees and site security. The Directors do not receive compensation of any kind. The Blast is our gift to people of the Island.

Planning begins in September to secure the date and contract with the pyrotechnic company. Publicity and fundraising begins in January.

following agencies and The organizations are involved with the Blast:

Corpus Christi City Attorney, Corpus Christi Řísk Management, Corpus Christi Property and Land Management, the Whitecap Water Treatment Facility, Corpus Christi Water Department, Corpus Christi Utilitie Department, the Island Moon Newspaper and

the Riley P. Dog Park.

Corpus Christi Fire Department and Fire Station #15, Corpus Christi Fire Prevention, Corpus Christi Fire Marshall, Texas State Fire Marshall and the Nueces Emergency Services District # 2. Safety and security provided by Corpus Christi Police Department and Bravo District, Corpus Christi Sheriff's Department, Nueces County Constable's Department,

Blast cont. on A3

2023 year to date 0.63" 2022 year to date 2.70" Mustang: Beachwalk Ln. 2023 year to date 0.83" 2022 year to date 4.28" Flower Bluff: Piper Dr. 2023 year to date 0.82" 2022 year to date 4.16" Average of these 7 stations 2023 year to date 0.55" 2022 year to date 3.31' Corpus Christi normal 3.47"

By the numbers...

Source: CoCoRaHS Network

Padre Island Real Estate Activity

February 1 – February 15

Interior Lot Homes Sold 14829 Dasmarinas Drive 14165 Palo Seco Drive 13842 Captain Kidd Drive

31 Interior Lot Homes Listed From

\$339,900.00 to \$789,000.00 Waterfront Homes Sold

14109 Atascadera Avenue 15302 Mutiny Court

15254 Cartagena Court 14118 Palo Seco Drive 15210 Cane Harbor Blvd.

15949 Punta Espada Drive 13538 King Phillip Court

37 Waterfront Homes Listed From \$431,000.00 to \$2,500,000.00

Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Sold 14009 Ports O Call Drive Unit D

14802 Whitecap Blvd.

43 Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Listed From \$175,000.00 to \$589,900.00

Waterfront Condominium/Townhome/Duplex Sold

15125 Leeward Drive #14 13922 Mingo Cay Court #3

22 Waterfront Condominiums/ Townhomes/Duplexes Listed From \$122,000.00 to \$665,000.00 **Waterfront Lots**

26 Waterfront Lots Listed From \$235,000.00 to \$9,000,000.00

Interior Lot Sold

00 Corrientes Drive

16 Interior Lots Listed From \$29,900.00 to \$300,000.00

Commercial Lots

19 Commercial Lots Listed From

\$99,900.00-\$3,000,000.00

Islander finds piece of bomb in his yard!

Editor's note: A few weeks after notice went out from federal authorizes to property owners on the south end of The Island that their property was once part of a site for practicing bombing in World War II we received the following note from a reader:

As you can see in the enclosed

photograph there are bombs west of Park Road 22. It appears to be an inert practice bomb so I am not too concerned. Dug it up approximately 18 inches deep while setting a pole in my yard. I am withholding my name and address because I don't want the Corps of Engineers digging up the rest of my property.



Legislative Action!
Two Bill Filed in Austin Have Local Impact

Bill for Second

Senate Bill aimed Flour Bluff ISD

Would prevent repeat of district's 2023 tax increase By Dale Rankin

Texas Senator Paul Bettencourt (R) Houston, this week filed a senate that would prevent the Flour

Bluff ISD School Board from repeating their actions which increased the district tax rate by 6.1% after voters in the district turned down an increase of 6.97 % in the November General Election.

Under existing state law a school district may increase their ad valorem tax rate (property taxes) by a maximum of 2.5% each year without approval

Editor's note: State Representative Todd Hunter this week filed a bill backing a second causeway to Padre Island in the Texas House of Representatives. It reads as follows:

Causeway to Padre Island

filed in Texas House

88R12669 AJZ-D

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 2894

See the Full Bill cont. on A4

FBISD cont. on A8 Around cont. on A3

March 3, 2023 Island Moon



Dr. Ryan Rogers with Padre Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center has started seeing patients this week at his office on the Island. His practice was located on Saratoga but during Covid he joined a group practice on the east coast to be near family. Three of his staff from his original south side office have joined him on the Island. His newly remodeled Island office has a surgical room, lab and several exam rooms. The practice accepts most insurances plus has reasonable cash pay. The office is located at 14650 Compass Suite 1 next to Annaville Insurance. Call 867-1032 for an appointment.



Port A Parks & Recreation has a Bowling Excursion on Friday, March 3rd 10:30 am - 2 pm to CM Lanes in Aransas Pass. The \$13 reservation includes transportation, shoe rental, pizza, drinks and two hours of play. Sign up at ports.recdesk.com or call 749-4158.

The Pier at Roberts Point Park in Port A is now open. It was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.

The Island Moon Newspaper has only one Facebook page and that is the one we post the newspaper articles, columns, Did Ya' Hear?, etc.. Over the years we have had Facebook pages that someone makes look like our page and then they get followers that think they are following the Moon when in actuality they are following someone impersonating us. Be sure to unfollow if you were deceived so they don't look legit.

St. Andrew by the Sea Friday Fish Fry is every week 5 - 7 pm until March 31st. Follow the crowd to the building behind the open air church. Prepare to wait in line for the fish plate with green beans, cole slaw and fries for \$10 to dine in or take out. The extra special feature is the three large tables with a variety of homemade desserts each for \$1. Heck, you can just go for the dessert. Trust me it's worth your time for dinner and dessert.



Riley P. Dog Park has an automated water fountain that was donated by Marilyn Kazwell from Michigan. There are more and more dogs enjoying the park. The hours are 7 am until around dark. Riley P Dog Park Board of Directors Meeting is Thursday, March 2, 2023 @ 6 pm at the Island Presbyterian Church. There will be a sign up sheet for anyone who would like to speak. Anyone can speak on any topic related to the park for 3 minutes. This meeting will not be a town hall meeting for open discussion.



Dog Park Water Fountain

Billish Park recently added a water fountain for adults, kids and pups. It is along the walkway near the volleyball court.



The Salty Dolphin Bar is celebrating their first anniversary Saturday and Sunday March 4th and 5th. To thank everyone for their support they will have live music and karaoke 1 - 11 pm and will be serving BBQ both days. They are located on Windward Drive across the street from the Wyndham Hotel.

Nom's Kitchen, that serves authentic Thai food, now has online ordering. You can even schedule your pickup while they are closed. They are located in the strip center closest to the JFK bridge.

Ace Hardware carries the Shibumi Shade that is lightweight, easy to assemble and will not blow away. It is exclusively at Ace. The store also carries bait & tackle, marine supplies, camping equipment and more. They also repair window and door

The Port Aransas Community Theater will feature the Kiss tribute band Rock and Roll Over on Saturday, March 11th 7 - 10 pm. The performance will include the iconic fire and smoke backdrops. The Kiss band member rated them one of the top four tribute bands. Tickets start at \$25.



Real Life Church will have Vacation Bible School on Mon. 3-13 thru Thurs. 3-16. It will be held at Island in the Son Church on Hwy 361. To register go to myreallife.org/events

The Czech Heritage Society of South Texas is hosting Country & Czech Music Festival on Saturday, March 11th noon - 6 pm. The Majek Orchestra and The Red Ravens will provide the music. Enjoy polka music and fruit filled kolaches. Admission is \$12 with kids 12 and under free. It will be held at the Moravian Hall at 5601 Kostoryz. Call Sam Morris at 215-9163 for more info.

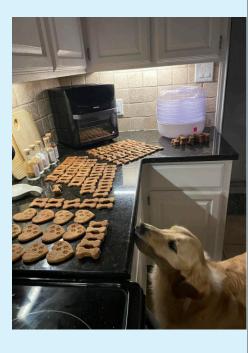
The Island Market IGA food trailer is for sale for \$40,000 or for lease for \$1200/month at the site and is move in ready. If interested send an email to L.Rasheed@islandmarketiga.com.

Sew Hooked is a traditional quilt store that opened in Flour Bluff February 2019. They offer long arm quilting, high quality heirloom fabrics, patterns and more. Hours are 10 am - 2 pm Tuesday - Saturday and they can accommodate customer off hours by appointment. Their products are also available online on their web site. The store is located at 2138 Waldron Road near Lumpia House Restaurant.



The entertainment area under the bridge has no signage to let drivers know where the paved road is to get to the businesses on the west side of the bridge. There is Doc's, Waterline, Snoopy's Pearl Oyster Bar, Snoopy's, Scoopy's and Marker 37. Marker 37 already has 39 events scheduled for this year plus they have volleyball, Jet Ski rental, tiki bar and more. It is hard to navigate during the day and way more difficult at night with no lighting. I don't know which government agency is responsible but something should be done now especially with the season upon us. Really, how much does it cost to just put up a sign. I am sure it drives locals and tourists crazy.

Teddy's Treats are homemade to order doggie treats with free delivery on the Island. Jeanie Valenzuela makes a variety of flavors including beef with coconut oil and peanut butter bacon. Call Jeanie at 214-621-4848.



The JFK Bridge will be back to four lanes March 3 - 19 for spring breaks. After that they will implement short term closures for overlay and rail replacement 9 am - 4 pm.

Stevie Start's "Nothing good happens OTB" car stickers are now available at Isle Mail & More for \$3.

The next ISAC meeting will be held at the Padre Island Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 7th 5:30 pm.

Spring **Break** for most schools begins Saturday, March 11th.

Sweet Swirl now has fruit cups for \$4. You can also get cheesecake and cheese cake bites besides, of course, their frozen yogurt.

There is, as far as I can figure out, an Asian market going in next door to Isle Mail & More. All I could find out so far is that they are selling spices and it will not be a restaurant. Stay tuned, I will learn more.

The Island Moon is looking for some part- time lay out help. If you would like to become one of us Moon Monkeys and are experienced in Adobe InDesign call 949-7700.

My favorite news in my column this week is that daylight saving time is nine days away Sunday, March 12th.

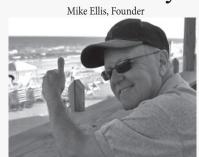
Random Stuff

I have been using my ambielly vintage ethnic coasters for many years because they are colorful, pretty and mainly because your drink is drip-free. The cloth absorbs the liquid unlike cork, wood and other material coasters without leaving any stain on the table. They are available at Amazon for \$13 for a set of 10.





Moon Monkeys



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Dale Rankin

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

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The Island Moon Newspaper

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Where to Find The Island Moon

Aransas

Pioneer RV

Stripes on 1A

Kody's

Coffee Waves Moby Dicks

IGA Treasure Island

San Juan's Restaurant Wash Tub

Shorty's Place

Gratitude The Gaff

Red's Riviera Sounds Good BBQ

Spanky's Liquor

Beach Lodge Ellis Memorial

Library

Bernie's Beach House

Flour Bluff H.E.B.

Ethyl Everly Senior Center

Padre

All Stripes Stores Black Sheep/

Barrel **CVS**

Dollar General Doc's Restaurant

Snoopy's Pier Isle Mail N More

Island Italian Brooklyn Pie Co.

Ace Hardware Texas Star (Shell) Spanky's

Scuttlebutt's Restaurant Subway

Island Tire

Padre Pizzeria

And all Moon retail advertisers WB Liquor

Island IGA

Island Fitness My Coastal Home

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Commodores Park Survey

Has the city survey regarding Commodore's Park been sent out yet?

Linda Griffin

Editor's note: As of this week the form for the survey has not been finalized by the city staff. An update is expected at the next ISAC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 7. Once the language is approved by ISAC the survey will go out. It should be in the next two weeks and we will include the language in the Island Moon, on the Facebook page theislandmoonnewspaper and on the Islandmoon.com website along with the links along with a link to file a comment.

Dale and Augs,

This is Beth Becerra. I work at Gulf Coast Growth Ventures, and regularly listen to Dale and sometimes Augs on Blake's show! (Confession: until Dan gave me your email this morning, I would have spelled that with an O... it being radio and all...) Thanks for your work on the radio, and in our community with the Island Moon. I'm sure you're putting together something about the amazing success of the Big Shell Cleanup, with record attendance of 2,500 people! I wanted to send along this info about the GCGV group of volunteers. As you know, Gulf Coast Growth Ventures is an ExxonMobil-SABIC joint venture making quality products that enhance everyday life. Gulf Coast Growth Ventures (gulfcoastgv.com) While we are doing that every day, our employees have such a passion for this community. (Our team volunteered 735 hours in 2022 in GCGV-coordinated events – all with a heavy workload of starting up this world-scale facility.) And that shows in events like the Big Shell Cleanup. GCGV, with Dan Watkins as our lead, brought 40 volunteers to the event. (You may have seen them with their volunteer shirts – red stripe down the sleeves and sides!) Safety is one of our top priorities at our site. We bring that mindset to events like this, adding in a strong dose of teamwork to tackle safe beach driving and removing bulky items from the shore. Sandy Rodriguez, who leads our sustainability team on site, pulled out a huge fishing net, an accomplishment, no doubt! I'm sure I can connect you with Dan or Sandy if you'd like an interview. Even simply adding in a mention of our group would be wonderful! I've included a few photos from our team as well! You are welcome to

Thanks, Beth Becerra Public Affairs Senior Advisor Gulf Coast Growth Ventures

use these in the Island Moon.

Editors Note: Thanks for the email Beth! We have included a bunch of images with yours on page 11!

Blast Cont. from A1

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the United States Coast Guard.

Publicity and administrative support is provided by The Island Moon, The Padre Isles Property Owners Association and the Padre Island Business Association.

We hope this provides a glimpse of what goes into the 4^{th} of July spectacular. A great amount of thanks to the hundreds of contributors and the above agencies/ organizations that work together to provide a great fireworks display. Look to the sky at about 9:15 pm on the 4th and enjoy!!!



This guy posed for his photo. Evelyn

Pless-Schuberth

progress.



Women's History Month

February 27, 2023

The month of March serves as Women's History Month. Our country aims to recognize contributions made by women in our society throughout the history of our nation. International Women's Day also takes place during the month of March. It is recognized by many countries around the world and serves as a leading recognition regarding women's rights around the world. Women's History Month has evolved from the very first International Women's Day that took place in 1911, and later from the Women's History Week conference that took place in 1979. The event was such a success that many other areas decided to have their own weeks honoring women, so President Jimmy Carter made a statement deeming a week during March to be the official Women's History Week. Due to the popularity that grew over time for the celebration of the week, the month-long recognition was proposed by many states and was passed by Congress in March of 1987. Congress would later pass additional requests that the President has the authorization to state that March is "Women's History Month" for every year to come. Throughout history, women's contributions to our society, economy, and nation have been significant. This month recognizes these contributions, triumphs, and strides that women have made to achieve equality and the recognition they deserve. This year there are many different events and honors that are participating in Women's History Month. The National Archive News has an exhibit called, "Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote," which opened in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th

en, as well as the endeavors women faced in order to achieve the right to vote. The National Women's History Alliance selects a theme and chooses women to honor each

year at the end of March. This year's theme is, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," which honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth and reflecting the human condition decade after decade.

For more information that pertains to the celebration please visit https://womenshistorymonth.gov/. To explore the archives about Women's History the U.S. that include photographs, articles, and film browse, https://www.archives.gov/news/ topics/womens-history . To learn more about the National Women's History Alliance and their contributions, visit https:// nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/. 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;

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District

District Office, 361-949-4603).

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

Bob Hall Cont. from page 1

Amendment. It explores the significant

milestone and landmark decision for wom-

ing of the pier totaled \$28.3 million but \$2 million of that total were part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal stimulus bill to aid public health and economic recovery after COVID and are not yet available.

The design proposal

The design of the new pier as presented to the board this week include 25,000 square feet of space on a 20-foot wide pier 18.5 feet above the water supported by two rows of steel pilings each twenty-four inches in diameter place 16 feet apart with a D-shaped deck at the seaward end of the 1240 foot pier. The previous pier was 15 feet wide.

Under the proposed plan the first floor of the old restaurant structure, the only part of the pier still standing, would be increased by 2500 square feet from current 5000 square feet at a cost of \$2 million but a plan previously approved the board was not included in the new design due to an estimated cost of \$900,000 to increase the support pilings to hold the added weight of a second floor. No design was ever begun

for the second floor of the structure and the existing building was designed with a 25-year life span when it was completed in

County officials said \$2.3 million in funding – part of a \$5 million package – has yet to be finalized. A plan for flyover – GLO money – still pending. Last month \$1.7 million in state funding for new 120,000 square-foot parking lot was approved and that measure is expected to go to the Nueces County Commissioners Court on March 8 for final approval.

No timeline was given for completion of the design for the new pier.

RV park

County officials also said this week that restrictions on the length of stay at the camping and recreational vehicle sites a Balli Park are costing the county \$20,000 per month in lost revenue. The issue over length of stay is part of ongoing discussions between county officials and members of the Jones family who donated the park to the county.

Around Cont. from A1



And speaking of boats we are happy to announce that another boat is on its way to The Island and this one hopefully will remain on top of the water. As of this writing mid-week the 35-foot pontoon boat which carries nineteen people is on a trailer somewhere in North Carolina but by the time you read this should be in the water at a slip at the Packery Channel Bar and Grill getting ready to begin taking people on boat rides by Spring Break.

We should pause here to say that the writer of this piece is one of the owners of the boat, the other two being longtime Islanders David Perry and Robert Pruski. The arrival of the boat ends almost a year of looking for an available boat and we have yet to settle on a name; so if any Moon readers are good at naming boats please send along your suggestions on our Facebook page theislandmoonnewspaper.

As far as we know there has never been a boat of this size put into service for taking the public on sightseeing tours here on Padre Island so it is kind of a new industry being born. It will fit under all the bridges here including the new Water Exchange Bridge. We will have updates as things

Spring Break Spring Break 2023 is upon us and the PD

has stepped up its traffic enforcement as it approaches with more than 150 traffic stops on the JFK Causeway and SPID this week. Traditionally on the Thursday and Friday of each week during Spring Break officers run radar on Whitecap to get in practice on the locals before the out of towners arrive so be careful. The PD told the Island Strategic Action Committee in early February that they plan on setting up their usual operations center next to American Bank.

Spring Break each year marks the beginning of the annual Island cycle as the Winter Texans evacuate ahead of higher room prices, then after Spring Break we get a bit of a reprieve until Memorial Day when everything busts loose. Most of our Spring Breakers typically are daytrippers with few college students to be seen, but you never know year to year. In looking at the schedule the weekend of March 11-12 looks to be the big weekend that the breaks at the various schools overlap. The good news is that now we have a grocery store and the JFK Bridge will have all its lanes up and running. By the time summer rolls around the Water Exchange Bridge will be at four lanes with water running underneath. It's going to be an exciting summer hereabouts!

Get ready to hunker down for a couple of weeks everybody and we'll see you on the other side. In the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Senior Moments



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

Patton and Eisenhower's Friendship During the Interwar Years

Dotson's Note: As a young officer in World War One, George S. Patton was part of the newly formed United States Tank Corps of the American Expeditionary Forces. He then commanded the U.S. tank school in France before being wounded while leading tanks into combat near the end of the war. During the interwar period, Patton remained a central figure in the development of armored warfare doctrine in the U.S. Army. He served in numerous staff positions throughout the country. It is here that he struck up a friendship with another young officer, Dwight David Eisenhower. The two men bonded over their shared military enthusiasm and love of strategy. But it was mostly over their love of tanks. Thanks to the Bill Morgan, MSgt. Wilbur Tingle, General Hobart Gay, and the article: "Patton and Eisenhower's Friendship During **the Interwar Years"** and thanks to the US Army Signal Corps for the photos.

Eisenhower & Patton



During the interwar years, Patton met another officer whose destiny would be bound up with his own. In the autumn of 1919, he was introduced to Eisenhower, known to his friends as Ike. Both men were commanding tank units. Eisenhower had not been sent off to France during the war but had established and run the largest tank training center in the United States—Camp Colt, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In many ways Patton and Eisenhower were strikingly different. Patton could be painfully direct. At times he was an insufferable egotist, and he often sought to intimidate with a well-practiced scowl. His wealthy background allowed him to enjoy an upper-crust way of life in a hardscrabble army.

Eisenhower was self-effacing and came from dirt-poor beginnings. His disarming smile charmed everyone who met him. Those who knew both men at this early stage of their military careers had the feeling that George Patton would achieve greatness. Eisenhower, on the other hand, was usually underrated, his easygoing manner masking a burning ambition. Few would have predicted that Eisenhower would become the most brilliant star of the West Point class of 1915—the "class the stars fell on."

While Eisenhower was attending the army's Command and General Staff College from 1925 to 1926 at Fort Leavenworth, Patton sent him his own very detailed notes from the course. Eisenhower graduated first in his class, presumably with some help from his friend's insights and notebook. Patton sent Ike a congratulatory note, remarking that while he was pleased to think that his notes had been of some assistance, "I feel sure that you would have done as well without them." It is likely, though, that Patton felt that his notes were the primary reason for Eisenhower's success at the college.

Years later, recalling his relationship with Patton, Eisenhower wrote, "From the beginning he and I got along famously. Both of us were students of current military doctrine. Part of our passion was our belief in tanks—a belief derided at the time by others." The two men shared a detailed knowledge of the mechanical workings of tanks and an appreciation of their potential strategic uses beyond mere assistance to the infantry.

There was a massive and rapid demobilization of the United States Army at the end of the World War I. By June 1920, the regular army was reduced to only 130,000 men. The American public embraced a pacifism inspired by a vision of the future in which war was a relic of the barbaric past. The League of Nations, which emerged from "the war to end all wars," embodying Pres-

ident Woodrow Wilson's idealistic hopes for international understanding, would peacefully settle future disputes among nations. America settled into a period of innocence and isolation. In 1922 the United States military ranked seventeenth in size among nations with a standing army.



Like their fellow junior officers, Patton and Eisenhower suffered post-war reductions in rank, deplorable living conditions, and miserable pay. They both contemplated leaving the service, but they both stuck it out, just as a later generation of officers, in the post-Vietnam era-men like Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell—would again rebuild the army into the world's greatest military force. A passionate belief in the crucial role that tanks could play in the future and the will to make it happen seemed to sustain both men during this period. "George and I and a group of young officers thought . . . [t]anks could have a more valuable and more spectacular role. We believed . . . that they should attack by surprise and mass We wanted speed, reliability and firepower."

The two men once took a tank completely apart, down to the nuts and bolts, and reassembled it, apparently to satisfy their curiosity and to understand every detail of its intricate assembly. Over endless dinners and drinks they would debate and discuss tank tactics and strategy, expanding their discussions to include a small but growing circle of like-minded men. Winning converts was not easy, but Patton and Eisenhower were zealots.



Dotson's Other Note: Decades later, in a February 1, 1945 memo, Eisenhower ranked the military capabilities of his subordinate American generals in Europe. He ranked Bradley and Army Air Force General Carl Spaatz at number one, with Walter Bedell Smith number two. Patton was number three. Ike revealed his reasoning in a 1946 review of the book Patton and His Third Army: "George Patton was the most brilliant commander of an army in the open field that our or any other service produced. But his army was part of a whole organization and his operations part of a great campaign." This quote is a good encapsulation of their friendship that began in the late 1910s. Ike thought Patton to be a leader of men exemplar. But he was only as good as the company in which he fought. Better yet, the tank company in which he fought. For you Moon Monkeys who are wondering, my friends Wilbur Tingle was Patton's driver and body guard and Hobart Gay was Patton's Chief of Staff in Europe. We were in the First Cavalry Division together in Japan during the Japan Occupation and in the Korean war. Believe it or

not, close friends. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at <u>dlewis1@stx.rr.com</u>. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It's your two

Show us your stuff! Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com

New Alamo Collections Center now Open

10,000 square foot space exhibits new artifacts

The Alamo Collections Center which is the newest constructed building on the grounds of the Alamo since the 1950s opened its doors to the public on March 3, and is now open to the public.

The Alamo Collections Center marks a turning point for the iconic site as it will provide 10,000 square feet of exhibition space, expanding the current galleries by fivefold. In addition, the new building will house state-of-the-art storage and conser-

vation space for the Alamo Collection, ensuring proper care of objects over the long term.

Designed by Gensler | GRG and constructed by Clark/Guido, the two-story building is located behind the Alamo Church, beyond the historic footprint. The Alamo Collections Center will showcase items from the Phil Collins Collection, the Donald and Louise Yena Spanish Colonial Collection, and the Alamo Collection until they can be shown in the new Visitor Center and Museum, which is anticipated to open in 2026.



Photo courtesy of thealamo.org

Bill Cont. from A1

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the construction of a bridge crossing Laguna Madre.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.625 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.625. LAGUNA MADRE BRIDGE. (a) The department shall:

(1) develop a plan, conduct an environmental review, and propose a design for a bridge crossing Laguna Madre in Nueces or Kleberg County in addition to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Causeway; and

(2) on construction of the bridge described by Subdivision (1), designate the bridge as part of the state highway system.

(b) The bridge described by Subsection (a) must provide an additional evacuation route for residents of North Padre Island in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

(c) The department shall include the bridge described by this section in the unified transportation program under Subchapter P.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.



March 3, 2023 Island Moon

Stuff I Heard on the Island

Back before Al Gore invented the internet and printed newspapers were the main source of information the ink was still wet on my journalism degree and I went looking for a writing job. My first two offers were from the Austin-American Statesman and the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

I had done a summer internship with the San Angelo Standard-Times which like the Caller-Times was owned by Harte Hanks and having grown up in Portland I was familiar with the Caller-Times and at that time believe it or not Corpus Christi was a larger media market than Austin and the Caller-Times was a more highly regarded news product than the American-Statesman and the pay offered by the Caller-Times was considerably better than that offered by the American-Statesman.

But the big city called and I landed at the San Antonio Express-News which had just recently been sold by Harte Hanks to Rupert Murdoch after Harte Hanks bought KENS television and had to sell the paper – the same company was not allowed to own a television station and newspaper in the same market in those days. Years later I ended up working for KENS which was owned by Harte Hanks and worked there for ten years. Harte Hanks was a solid media company and the Caller-Times was one of its founding newspapers and very proud of its tradition of straightforward investigative reporting and a voice in state politics.

Not that kind of paper anymore...

Then along in the 1990s when the San Antonio Light closed a friend went to work for the Caller-Times because of that reputation and within a few months had dug up a story about a local State Senator who was shaking down businesses to use his insurance company if they wanted any help in Austin. He wrote up the story and soon enough found himself in front of the editor who informed him that, "we're not that kind of paper anymore" and spiked his story. It was the first clue I had that the paper, like many, had changed. As the saying goes, when journalism becomes business access becomes currency and you don't get access to the State Senator by pointing out that he is shaking down his constituency.

Fast forward to the early part of this century and the newspaper game had changed and so had the *Caller-Times*. Like papers across the country they began cutting editorial staff as they moved to a digital product ahead of the cash flow. But the presses at the Caller-Times kept on ringing the cash register as they published local newspapers across the Coastal Bend. In every newspaper in the country it was those behemoths down in the basement that sent the words from our keyboards out to the world and as we sat working in the newsroom we would hear the building shudder when the giant

rolls of newsprint were rolled off the truck to be loaded onto the presses. We typed a little faster knowing that the presses were about to roll and contrary to the movies they almost never stopped because it was expensive. If the President died they stopped; if he was only wounded that story could wait for tomorrow. Then a few minutes later the whole building shook as the presses fired up and we stopped typing... it was time to gather at the local watering hole and complain about the editors as reporters do.

And then the end...

Since I bought the Island Moon in 2007 we have printed at four locations, finally ending up at the Caller-Times several years ago. Each Thursday morning I drove to the Caller-Times building downtown and loaded up a truck full of newsprint and hauled it back to The Island; but no more. Harte Hanks is long out of the newspaper business and the new owners of the Caller-Times have made the decision to get out of the printing business after 150 years and get rid of the presses. Most likely press owners from across the country will come in and pick their bones for spare parts and what's left will turn into razor blades putting about forty pressmen out of work. There was a time when the unions controlled the presses in every paper in the country but those days are long gone.

So last Thursday I took a final stroll through the finals days of the presses at the Caller-Times and the smell of the printers ink took me all the way back to that rumbling building there at Avenue E and Third Street when it was all in front of me. The press room when the presses were rolling was a living and breathing place, roaring with life and promise and there is still a little thrill that emanates from just being around those big old dinosaurs down there in the basement of that building even as they near the end. They and their forbearers have been the town crier bellowing out history to the Coastal Bend for a century and a half and now they are gone.

The Gutenberg press was invented in 1450 and we were still working out its effect on how we govern ourselves when Al Gore came along and everything changed. There is still a demand for good information it's now just a question of who is going to separate the wheat from the chaff. With that said here are the pictures I took on my last stroll through the Caller-Times presses.

As my first Editor Tommy West said to me my first day at the paper, "Welcome to the world of big time journalism kid where you wait for your second heart attack so you can retire with a thousand dollars in the

At the time I thought he was kidding.



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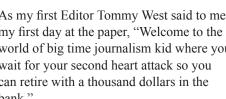
The sorting room where the printed sections are combined.



A dusty production line











is how they came off the presses to be sorted.



The papers came out of the press on pallets ready for loading.



inserts sit empty.



The presses



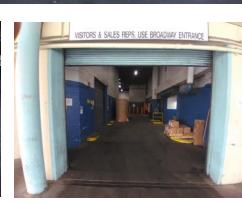


The last load of newsprint at the Caller-Times. It most likely will be





A fleet of fork lifts with nothing to do.





The final product ready for shipping.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Two Yankee Pitchers Swapped Wives and Swapped Lives

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: Even Yankees GM Brian Cashman, who has been involved in some of baseball's biggest trades over the years, would have been floored by an extraordinary trade that took place involving two Yankee pitchers almost 50 years ago. An avant-garde wife swap between two Yankees pitchers, Mike Kekich and Fritz (Fred) Peterson, became public in March 1973 just before the beginning of the regular season. The two teammates announced the event at old Fort Lauderdale Stadium in Florida during spring training. The bizarre trade actually took place in the summer of 1972. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Sheldon Kamieniecki for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.

Kekich and Peterson

Kekich, a southpaw, played between 1969 and 1973 for the Yanks and did not have a distinguished career on the mound. He pitched in 125 games for the Bombers, primarily as a starter, and had a 31-32 winloss record with a 4.31 ERA. He pitched equally ineffectively for the other clubs he played for during his short time in MLB. Peterson was a starting pitcher and was clearly the better hurler. He played for the Yanks between 1966 and 1974. He had a 109-106 win-loss record with a 3.10 ERA in 288 games. His best year with the Bombers was in 1970 when he went 20-11 and pitched in the All-Star game. He has the distinction of having the lowest ratio of walks per innings pitched for any left-handed pitcher in MLB since the 1920s.



How It All Started

The Kekichs and the Petersons lived in New Jersey and had been good friends since 1969. They were invited to a party on a Saturday night, had a couple of beers, and were having a great time. Former outfielder Ron Swoboda, who played his final three seasons (1971-1973) with the Yanks, said he attended the same party and remembered them being there.

The two couples had driven to the party in separate cars. Upon leaving they decided that Peterson's wife, Marilyn, would ride with Mike, and Mike's wife Susanne would ride with Fritz. They would meet at a diner in Fort Lee, New Jersey and both couples would then go home from there.

They all had so much fun together that they decided to do it again the next night when they went for dinner at a steakhouse. Mike and Marilyn left together early, and Fritz and Susanne stayed behind and had a few drinks. All four again had fun that evening. Eventually, Mike fell deeply in love with Fritz's wife, Marilyn, and Fritz fell deeply in love with Mike's wife, Susanne. Both Yankee pitchers and their wives were so thrilled with their new lives off the field that they decided after the season to make their arrangement permanent. They all agreed that the kids should stay with their mothers. Susanne and her two daughters thus joined Fritz, and Marilyn and her two sons moved in with Mike. And just in case you are wondering, the dog in each household followed the wives, too, virtually eliminating any players to be named later.

Of course, this entire affair was taking place in the early 1970s, when alternative lifestyles were being discussed and debated, and when sexual liberation was taking place. Thus, the four of them did not think what was happening to them was such a big deal. However, following the day of the announcement at old Fort Lauderdale Stadium in Florida, the story hit the newspapers and television news, and it attracted an enormous amount of public interest and attention.

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Now back to baseball. Kekich was traded to the Cleveland Indians that June (in 1973), and Peterson was also traded to Cleveland a year later. Fritz pitched only three more seasons after that. The blended families went their separate ways.



How It All Ended

Both former players agree that it wasn't an inappropriate or salacious affair. At the time, all four felt equally the same way. According to Kekich (and Peterson agrees), this wasn't about wife swapping; it was about swapping lives. In reacting to this distraction just before the season was about to begin, Ralph Houk, the Yankees skipper at the time (and an ex-marine), reflected on the changing times people were living in. Expressing empathy for the couples involved, he commented that those involved have many years to live and should do what is best for them.

Out loud Houk asked, why should people go through life unhappy and suffer? The Yankee manager commented that some believe that you have to stay together for the sake of the kids. Yet, often, we see couples living together, and they are practically separated.

Unfortunately, Mike and Marilyn became unhappy and they decided to split up. However, Fritz and Susanne's relationship continued to blossom. Today they are still married, continue to go out and have fun, and feel like they are still on their honeymoon. Kekich admits that he is somewhat bitter because Peterson and Mike's ex-wife, Susanne, are very happy together and that things did not work out for quite the same way for he and Marilyn.



Wouldn't this make a terrific movie? Recently, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck thought so, and they wanted to turn the story they had purchased, *The Trade*, into a film. Peterson thought that it was a great idea and was all for it. However, Kekich became panic-stricken when he was approached with the idea and was dismayed that those working on the movie found out where he now lives (Albuquerque, New Mexico with his (new) wife). For him, it turned out to be a tragedy on top of a nightmare. He has tried to move on, and he doesn't want the incident to become a focus again. As a consequence talks broke down, and, it appears, the project is still on hold.

Dotson's Other Note: What happens in baseball often mirrors what takes place in life. Like in life, players must deal with changes in their surroundings and their relationships with their teammates. Sometimes things don't work out for whatever reasons, and players must deal with the consequences or be bitter for the rest of their lives. Do any of you Moon Monkeys remember this little glitch, which was I recall, was a big deal at the time? Please contact me by phone, text and/or Email for questions, comments & etc.: dlewis1@stx.rr.com; Mobile: 530-748-8475, call and/or text.

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Fenceball

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Baseball fence

It's time for a change, a major change. No other professional sport could attempt this kind of change. Why, because most major sports are confined to a specific playing area, or boundaries. Games of basketball, football and hockey are played in areas with identical dimensions. That means the individual playing areas used by each separate sport are the same width, height and length. The surface of these areas may be different, as in grass vs. turf in football, hardwood vs. parquet floors in basketball, or soft vs. hard ice in hockey rinks, but they offer no advantage when it comes to dimensions. Baseball does not follow suit. Not only do most parks differ in dimensions, but also in the height and distance of their outfield fences. Today's baseball parks, old or new, offer many nooks and crannies. Sharp angles, high or low outfield fences, catwalks, dugouts and even bullpens within foul territory, all help each park take on its own personality. Oops, I gave it away! That's right, foul territory and fences are the key words. You see, baseball is the only game where you can play outside the lines, or in foul territory. In other words, the game of baseball is not confined to the playing surface. In no other sport do we go over the ground rules with the opposition before playing the game.

Here's how this evolution occurred: Before parks were built to seat fans who wished to see the game, there were natural boundaries such as hills, rivers, trees and even train tracks. The so-called home runs were few, and seats were eventually added, when too many fans showed up to simply stand and watch. World Series games were actually played at the turn of the century, where fans formed a semi-circle in the outfield or perhaps a human fence to create boundaries. As the popularity of the game increased with more home runs, so did the number of seats in the park. Each park was built within the space available, in cities or neighborhoods, and, therefore, different dimensions were created. Eventually, seats were also added in most outfields, creating a permanent barrier between a ball in play and a home run. The playing area made up of three bases and home plate are the same dimensions in every ballpark, but the area of foul territory and distance to the outfield fences were determined by the space left over inside the park, after seating had been added. The results can easily be seen. Fenway Park and Wrigley field have virtually no foul territory down the leftfield lines, while Camden Yards and Globe Life Park have very little space down the right-field lines.

The height of the fences also differs in each park, with the 37-foot high

"Green Monster" in Boston being the highest, to the five-foot leftfield fence at Tropicana Field in Tampa. Safeco Field in Seattle and Citi Field in New York pulled their fences in recently. Coors Field followed suit. It's the amount of foul territory, the home run, and the fact that the game can be decided by plays made outside the field of play, that make baseball unique and different from other professional sports.

So why call it baseball? The game started as a stick and ball contest where the pitcher actually allowed the batter to put the ball in play, in order to move players from one base to another, to score runs. With no fences, there was no such thing as a home run. It was simply called a four-base hit. That's how the name of the game evolved from a game of bases to being called baseball. Shouldn't we now change the name of this game? Home runs used to be reserved for sluggers. Every year, more home runs are hit; and every year, they become cheaper and cheaper.

Ty Cobb said it best in 1919 and was perhaps way ahead of his time. The "Georgia Peach" said, "The home run could wreck baseball. It throws out a lot of strategy and makes it fenceball." Fenceball, there's the change. Change the name of this game to Fenceball. That's really what the game has come to. The bases seem to get in the way of today's game. No doubt, Cobb was not ready for "The Babe" and the "Big Bang" approach to the game. In Cobb's time the game had been described as "small ball," where the ability to manufacture runs separated the great teams from the rest of the pack. Home runs went against everything Ty practiced and believed about team offense. In the many games that Cobb and Ruth played against each other, Cobb continued to out-hit, out-score and out-play Ruth, only to have "The Bambino" cheered by fans everywhere. "Fenceball." That kind of grows on me and describes the game today so much better. The focus was on power, distance, fences and scoring, not bases. The bases are simply out there to provide the hitter with directions to home plate. Practice your bat flip and then trot to first base and take a left.

Now you know why MLB made so many rule changes to game this year. Will home runs still dominate the game? Bigger bases, extra inning rule, pitch clock, and the defensive shift has now been eliminated. Should be interesting to see if the scores go up and the length of the game goes down.

Andy Purvis
www.purvisbooks.com







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The Red Ravens

Admission \$12, children under 12 are free Food, drink & kolaches available for purchase. Dance from noon to 6:00 p.m.

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Moravian Hall - 5601 Kostoryz - Corpus Christi, Texas

The Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks



Cynthia, Jay and Shelly

Judging by the winds outside, I'd say that we are headed into formal spring, with the "3 months at 30 mph" knocking on the door. While the wind will eat into your soul if you let it because you like to get out on the laguna, remember it's better than the alternative as the mid-west and upper tier of the country are still "enjoying" snow and sleet events. They say that if you don't fish in the wind, you won't fish around

The Billy Sandifer Big Shell Clean Up went off this past Saturday without a hitch. Our Islander friend Kristy Jackson and her friends slipped into my section with Tyler riding shotgun, and we headed down to the 23MM. I usually have tried and trusty Brian Trube co-leading as the "healer", but due to the massive amount of folks and a lack of section leaders, he was assigned his own section to lead. What a turn out! The official count put us right at 2,500 volunteers that showed up to help clean the beach, a new record! We'll need more

section leaders next year! I say this every year, but I had the best section ever. They managed to stay out of the dunes, and got our mile done despite moderate trash in about 2 hours. My truck was piled past the top of the bed, and all the volunteers managed to fill 7 dumpsters. That was a massive amount of trash picked off the beach, and final tonnage won't be out for a while. Volunteers managed to clean from the 50MM all the way to the 18MM, and some in between for an unprecedented 32+ miles. Billy would be proud. There are too many to thank, but a few are Friends of Padre, Wienershnitzel, Domino's Pizza, the Ocean Conservancy, CCA, Jersey Mikes, Zach at Overland America, Yeti, and of course our buddy Jacob Augs who did the artwork. The park staff also goes above and beyond every

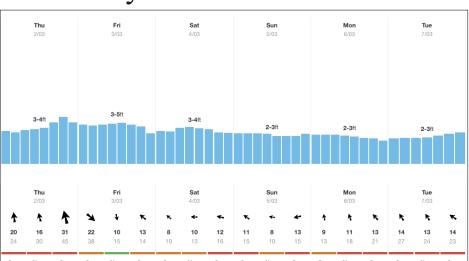
year on their day off, and I even ran into our good friend Cynthia and "Shelley" just long enough to snap a frame. See you all next year and look Baxter up at friendsofpadre.com if you'd like to visit about sponsoring next year.

BirdCast is starting to show some good activity with the birds coming up from Mexico, and some coming across from South America and the Caribbean. There are reports of hummingbirds all along the coast, and any time that you have three days of southeast wind, you can bet that the birds are riding that freight train north. The early bird gets the worm most of the time, but if they head north too fast, they can also get icicles instead of flowers. I've had my feeder up for over a week, but I haven't seen any hummingbirds around it yet mostly because I haven't been home during daylight hours. Been a rough road lately and bound to get rougher before it eases up.

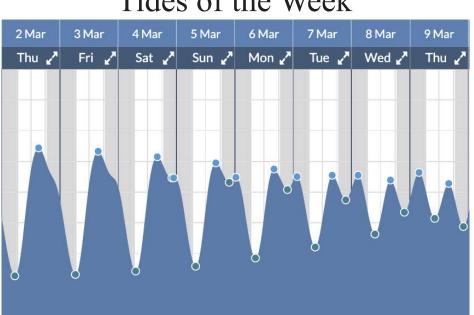
I borrowed some 4" PVC from Baxter the other day as I thought I needed a small piece for a project. He had some laying around and made sure to impart the phrase "no give-backs" when I dropped by to pick it up. Come to find out, I needed 3" for my project, and thought I was stuck with material I didn't want until I came across a bunch of instructions on the interwebs for nest boxes/nest tubes for birds. The design is very simple, and all you need is, surprise, 4" PVC and a couple of caps. Stick with the same size holes to keep out the unwanted birds (1-1/4 or 1-1/8") and drill some small (1/4") holes for drainage in the bottom cap and near the top for ventilation. You can mount it on a pole or hang it from a tree, but I would avoid mounting it to a fence, as Fluffy the Cat will undoubtedly find it and start some trouble. Try and mount the nest at least 7' in the air and north-facing like you normally would. I'm betting 3" would work too if you had some laying around.

Well folks, the CCA banquet is pretty much sold out and ready to be put together next week. We will also be having the Island Strategic Action Committee meeting on Tuesday. I'm not going to get much sleep, but I may get more than Lauren and Augs who are expecting their first any time now. Hoping everything goes well and Jozy is here soon and healthy! Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and if you see a blur go by you, it was likely me. See you next week On the Rocks.

Packery Channel Surf Forecast



Tides of the Week



3:13PM 3:44PM 1.51ft 1.44ft	3:44PM	4:03PM 1.38ft	4:09PM	00:25AM 1.08ft	1:36AM 1.08ft	2:42AM 1.12ft	3:48AM 1.15ft
	10:47PM 1.08ft	1.28ft	4:06PM 1.21ft	4:03PM 1.12ft	4:02PM 1.05ft	4:01PM 0.98ft	
5:26AM	6:21AM	7:09AM -0.3ft	7:51AM -0.23ft	8:28AM -0.1ft	9:03AM 0.07ft	9:38AM 0.26ft	10:15AM 0.49ft
-0.36ft	-0.33ft	10:04PM 1.08ft	9:40PM 1.02ft	9:38PM 0.89ft	9:39PM 0.75ft	9:46PM 0.56ft	10:03PM 0.36ft
6:52AM	6:51AM	6:50AM	6:49AM	6:48AM	6:47AM	6:46AM	6:45AM
6:29PM	6:30PM	6:31PM	6:31PM	6:32PM	6:32PM	6:33PM	6:34PM
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4:01AM	4:46AM	5:26AM	6:02AM	6:34AM	7:04AM	7:33AM	8:01AM
2:19PM	3:14PM	4:10PM	5:05PM	6:00PM	6:54PM	7:48PM	8:43PM

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah Farah's Fishing Adventures



IT'S TIME FOR TOPWATER!! This nice redfish busted the surface on a nice redfish north of the JFK in just 1-1/2' of water.

Spring has started in every way here on Padre Island! Warm winds and seas have started our annual push of bait and gamefish into the back bays. The jetties of both Port A and PACKERY are full of sheep head, pompano, redfish, trout, and drum. Flounder are coming back in as well from their winter hiding zones just offshore. The flats are a river of migrating schools of bait, with hungry predatory fish following close. Each trip out has been a great adventure in fishing.

Set aside some time for living now, why wait?

MARKER 37 Bait Report

Live shrimp are filling the tanks, and the live bait flags for sea lice, crab, bait fish are up as well. Drifting with live shrimp under popping corks has been the most productive way to get on fish using live bait. Cover a lot of water learning as you drift. Plan out drifts with an easy starting and ending point. Keep a 30# leader at least 2.5-3.5 feet under your popping cork with a #4 circle hook and a small spit shot weight a few inches up from the hook to keep the shrimp down. Bottom fishing can be very good along the ICW right now with swarms of fish flowing by with each change of tide. Marker 37 has all the right tackle for setting up CAROLINA RIGS FOR BOT-TOM FISHING, and some pre-made ones

When you catch a few have them cleaned there at MARKER 37 MARINA and try their new COOK YOUR CATCH PACK-AGE! Fill out a form at the marina on how you would like your catch cooked and the sides and they will take care of the rest, having your table ready for you and your food at your desired time. Perfect for going and cleaning up the boat and your act before dinner with friends and family.

The ghostly fog loomed around us, my topwater plug vanished on the long cast. I



This local Island father/son team doubled down this week for a perfect pair.

could here it splash down and tick tock tick tock stop. As I tightened the line I could see a distant splash of whitewater and heard my bait get rocked by an explosion of water. The rod bent over in a bow, I raised it and laid it behind my shoulder. The fish rose with its Flared gills thrashing back and forth. She made a dash for the corner and when the line drew tight she took to the air and flipped over before crashing down in a shaking mess. Later I watched the fish in slow motion as I laid back for an afternoon nap. The visions that we take into our hearts while we are in the outdoors can't be compared to pictures. The explosion of a topwater bite stirs the blood. This is the time when the topwater experience is prime. To be successful with topwater plugs requires a determination and patience, while you learn a craft.

I like using plugs that I can see at a long cast, so I can watch fish roll and slap the bait. Knowing when you are getting followed allows the angler to stay and reel when needed, to entice a strike. Imagine with each cast, every fish within 20 feet or more, feeling every move of the plug. Vibration sent out like a shock wave to all potential assailants. Try to sneak the bait in when it's calm and silent, roll and pump the bait for maximum disturbance when it's windy. You will not catch as many fish with topwaters as you will with soft plastics but they will be better than most caught on soft plastics. One important detail is when using braided line, use a long 2.5-4ft mono leader. This will allow for a softer, more realistic presentation. The best way to learn and gain confidence in using topwater plugs is to USE THEM! Do not wait until the wind is dead and lunar feeding times are raw. Commit to them, have different sizes, colors, shapes, actions, and Designs and stick with it. A full day of fishing with them will have you longing for that surface attack. Let me push you into it, this time of year we have one stringed up at all times rotating it around the boat through the day.

Follow all of our hookups on Facebook and Instagram at Joey FARAH'S Backwater Adventures, and you are always welcome to call at 361/442-8145.



This beautiful 6-pound trout struck a DOA 5.5 JERK BAIT in RED SHAD color. A light jighead and erratic presentation tempted this oversized trout.



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Ryan T Rogers, MD

Island Moon March 3, 2023

Nature Notes

Gulls and Terns By Adam Trujillo



Gull and Tern identification can be challenging. Can you pick out the Royal Terns, Sandwich Terns, and Laughing Gull in this photo? Photo by Alan Wilde

Go to any Texas beach and you're bound to see three things: sand, water, and gulls Unfortunately, gulls are some of the most difficult birds to identify, and are often overlooked for this reason! In fact, we at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory are hosting a whole class devoted to identifying gulls and terns on the Texas Coast. There's more variety than you might think! The first step in identifying gulls is acknowledging a hard fact: there's no such thing as a seagull. At least not in avian literature. I know media has taught us that the birds at the beach are seagulls, but the proper term is just gulls. Now that that's covered, we can learn about the gulls and

To start, the gulls and terns are in the family Laridae. In this family, we have the gulls, terns, skimmers, and kittiwakes. There are around 100 species that belong to the Laridae family, with around 28 of those species being here in North America. Some of the most common gull species you'll find here on the Texas Gulf Coast are the Laughing Gull, Herring Gull, and Ring-billed Gull

Gulls can be tricky to identify because it can take them around four years to grow into their adult plumage. In a breeding adult Laughing Gull, look for a black hood with white eye arcs, gray upper parts, and deep red bill and legs. You can also listen for their laughing type call. In a breeding adult Herring Gull, look for a large gull mixed amongst other gull species, with a yellow bill with a red dot on lower jaw, and dull pink legs. In a breeding Ringbilled Gull, look for a medium-sized gull with a ring around the yellow bill, yellow

legs, and pale eye.

Terns are generally smaller and, in my opinion, cuter than the gulls are. The common species you will find here are the Least Tern, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, and Royal Tern. A breeding-age Least Tern is small with gray upper parts, white underparts, black cap, and a yellow bill. In a breeding Caspian, look for a large tern with a distinctive thick, bright-red bill often with dark marks towards the tip, black cap, and black wing tips. In a breeding Forster's, look for a medi-

um-sized tern with pale whitish wings, black-tipped orange bill, black cap, and a forked tail. And in a breeding Royal, look for a large tern, slightly smaller than the Caspian, with a solid orange bill and shaggier black crest.

Lastly, a special member of the Laridae here on the Gulf Coast is the Black Skimmer. Look for a bird with black upper part, unmistakable black and orange bill with longer lower mandible, and orange legs. Watch them use this lower mandible as they skim over the water searching for

All of the birds listed above are colony nesters, meaning you won't find just one breeding pair, you'll find many, maybe hundreds in a single area making their nests. They also like to travel in flocks, so you'll see them roosting in large groups on

If gulls and terns peak your interest, join in on Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's class: Gulls and Terns of the Upper Texas Coast! You can register online at www.GCBO. org, or take a look at our resource pages for help identifying different species!

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Seeking Public Input on Saltwater Fishing Regulation Proposals for 2023–24

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is now accepting public comment on proposed changes to saltwater fishing regulations for the 2023-24 license year. These changes are focused on matching federal regulations to streamline enforcement and compliance issues.

TPWD will be taking public comment on the following proposed changes to the 2023–24 Statewide Recreational Fishing Proclamation, with input to be considered before any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March 2023 public hearing:

Add shortfin make to the list of prohibited shark species for recreational and commercial fishing;

Require anglers to use descending

devices in state waters when a fish exhibits signs of barotrauma and match federal DESCEND Act requirements; Lower the bag limit for cobia to

one fish per day per angler and

create a vessel limit of two fish per trip, not to exceed the per person bag limit, for recreational and commercial fisheries. The public is encouraged to provide comment on the proposed regulation changes.

Public hearings: TPWD Coastal Fisheries staff will host two public hearings on the coast to receive

Opportunities to provide comments for or

against these proposals include

input from stakeholders and constituents concerning the proposed regulation changes.

- Monday, March 6, at 6 p.m. at Nessler Civic Center in the Captain's Room, 2010 5th Ave. N, Texas City, Texas 77590 Tuesday, March 7, at 6
- p.m. at TAMU CC NRC Room 1003, 6300 Ocean Dr., Corpus Christi, Texas 78412

Online: Online comments for each component of the changes can be provided on the TPWD <u>public comment page</u> until 5 p.m. on March 22.

Phone or Email: Coastal Fisheries Division at 512-389-8575 or cfish@tpwd.texas.

Zoom Webinar: TPWD Coastal Fisher-

ies staff will present the proposed fishing regulation changes and answer questions in a Zoom webinar at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 6. Register online. In person: The TPW Commis-

sion will take public comment on the proposed changes at their meeting on Thursday, March 23 in Austin. Public testimony is normally limited to three minutes per person.

Do You Enjoy Nighttime Flounder Fishing? Take part in Texas Parks and Wildlife study

In an effort to successfully manage flounder in Texas waters, we plan to study the nighttime flounder fishery in Matagorda, Aransas and San Antonio Bays during this harvest season. A variety of methods will be used to capture information from flounder giggers and anglers, including nighttime creel surveys, nighttime trailer counts, and the opportunity for flounder enthusiasts to self-report their landings in Texas bay systems through the free My Texas Hunt Harvest app (MTHH). To report your nighttime flounder catch using

MTHH, go to "Fishing" and click "Flounder."

You won't have to divulge your secret fishing spot, just information similar to our creel interview questions, such as the the number of flounder caught, the Texas bay system you fished and the date. Easy! For more information, see our video Webinar

for Upcoming Nighttime Flounder Study. Find out where the flounder are biting by subscribing to our free Saltwater Fishing Report. Your participation is important – help improve coastal fishing by reporting your nighttime flounder fishing harvest.

FBISD cont. from A1

by district voters, any amount above that requires a public vote. The Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees placed a 6.97% increase on the November, 2022 ballot which was voted down by a margin of 65% to 35% on a total vote of 10,246 by 6635 votes against and 3611 votes in favor. That rate, if approved by voters would have raised \$4.1 million in additional revenue Voters in that election also voted two of the incumbents running for reelection out of office.

Then in December, after the defeat at the polls, the district voted 6-1 to approve a tax increase of 6.1% which included a permanent tax hike of 2.5%, the maximum allowed without a public vote, then added three cents, 4%, on top of that rate which was allowed under the provisions of a declaration of emergency by Governor Gregg Abbott for the winter storm that swept across the state in February, 2020. That tax rate, according to district records, generated \$4 million new revenue for the current school year, just short of the \$4.1 million

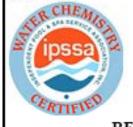
the rate turned down by voters would have garnered.

Nueces County Tax Assessor/Collector Kevin Kieschnick challenged the district's right to add the emergency provision to the tax rate, however, lacked the legal standing to take the case to court and after objection to district officials sent out tax notices after a fifteen-day waiting period in which no taxpayer in the district channeled the move.

Senator Bettencourt's bill is aimed directly at allow the district, or any district in the state, to raise the rate above the voter approval rate of 2.5% in any instance.

The rate finally approved by the school board was slightly less than the rate turned down by the voters and taxpayers across the district were sent checks in early 2023 to refund the difference. So far no committee hearings have been scheduled for the Senate Bill and no companion bill has been filed in the House

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Spring Cleanup on Easter Island

es.

tants.

By Pastor Kris Bair

I suspect lots of you readers know who David Attenborough is. If you don't, you should--if you love the natural world.

A Brit naturalist, now in his 90s, Attenborough has, for decades, wandered blithely around the world examining closely the wonders of nature and sharing them in BBC programmes (sic, because it's the BBC, after all).

He's got a great sense of humor and so much knowledge and wisdom, which he gives to us in easy-to-swallow doses, with lots of beautiful illustrations.

He's a treasure.

I follow a Facebook site called "David Attenborough Fans" and have some of his insight delivered to my desktop daily. I highly recommend.

Today's post showed the monolithic Moai statues of Easter Island-world famous for being buried up to their necks and stoically, stonily, facing the unknown—sometimes looking out toward the sea (not difficult if you're on an island), and sometimes facing landward.

What are they looking at, anyway? Who made them? Why? And why bury them? And how did they get those stone monoliths where they now stand?

It's a mystery akin to that of the Great Pyramids.

As they've dug, archaeologists have found the heads have actual stone bodies—at least for some of them. Some have loincloth-looking wraps on and signs drawn on their backs. More mystery!

The Rapa Nui buried them on purpose—this wasn't soil buildup over centuries. This is soil multiple building-stories deep! And it's soil-not volcanic deposit.

In other words, it's a lot like my house.

With one hairy dog, two cats, and the GP (Great Provider/matrimonial partner), we have build-up that makes one feel

like only the head is exposed, big noses and all. After a not-so-long winter here in the sort-of-tropics, we're in sad need of a

spring cleaning which will be more like an archaeological dig.

There's buildup and detritus everywhere—floors to ceiling. And it refuses to go away by itself.

I did ask nicely.

Things get left lying around,

and then they begin to get piled up, and then knocked over by any of the animals

involved (including me and the GP).

Sadly, I'm the only animal who regularly picks up the piles.

Even more sadly, I mostly put them back where they were.

Repeat process, piles increasing exponentially.

I could blame it on the junk mail. I could blame it on the dirty dish-

I could blame it on my co-habi-

But it's all of us, and it's just the

way it is. We are messy creatures. But then, life is messy. Sometimes you just gotta stop and clean up the mess because it's too big to cover up anymore and embarrassing to leave

Not to mention that you can't find what you need when it's in those piles.

What I like about the Moai statues is that they are facing it—whatever it

They aren't worried about that build-up they're buried in and they aren't going to change even after the archaeologists give them a good spring cleaning.

They are who they are. That we don't understand who they are doesn't bother them a bit. They will go on being who they are.

But cleaning them up will make them easier for us to understand.

And if they were animate like us, they would sure be able to get around a lot

At Island Presbyterian Church (Gypsy and Fortuna Bay) we are living into the spring cleaning of Lent in order to ambulate into Easter. Join us for worship at 10 a.m. (nursery provided), or catch it on our Livestream or Zoom, links found at our website or FB page.

Easter Sonrise service with Island in the Son and St. Peter's by the Sea UMCs, and on the beach at Whitecap, is in the works—mark your calendars for April 9, 7 a.m.

And for any of you wondering, Spring Fling will be on May 9—vendors now being accepted!





Angry Marlin staff and friends did a send off for their Winter Texan patrons at Hardknocks. Photo by Mary Craft



to Saint Lucia

Longtime Islander Dan Carignan met former Minnesota Vikings Coach Mike Tice this week.



MARSHA TATUM



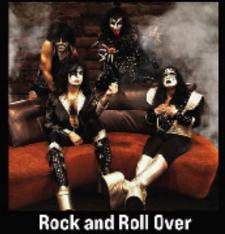








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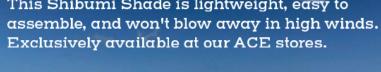
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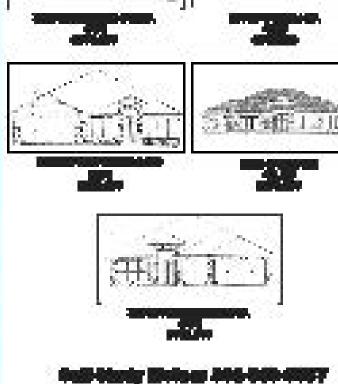














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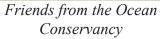
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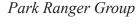
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Featured Deal



B12 March 3, 2023 Island Moon



I took notes.

consumption.

An Affinity for Affinage

By Chris Jordan

In the column before last, I wrote about my Super-weekend trip to Austin and mentioned the purchase of several cheeses at Central Market. In the weeks since, I've

Here's a glossary of terms: The rind is the surface of the cheese. A bloomy rind is simply a coating of mold. A washed rind is one that has been washed, usually with brine but sometimes alcoholic drink. The paste is the inner part of the cheese. The cream line is the transitional area between the paste and the rind. Cheese can be made with whole or skim milk. Cheeses that are specified double or triple cream have cream added to whole milk. Double cream

cheeses are 50% butterfat minimum; triple

creams 75% minimum. Affinage is the care

given a cheese between its creation and its

been able to eat my way through them and

Moses Sleeper — Jasper Hill Farm,

If you've had this cow's milk cheese and thought to yourself that it was basically Brie, you'd be right. The rind is a perfectly white bloom and quite thin, revealing a soft paste with virtually no cream line. You get the usual fresh button mushroom and broccoli/cabbage/cauliflower notes. Moses Sleeper was a scout for The United States during The American Revolutionary War. He and his fellow scout Constant Bliss were shot and scalped by Native Americans in 1781 near Greensboro, Vermont. Moses got a cheese named after him and I reckon Constant should too.



St. Andre

St. Andre — St. Andre Creamery, Normandy

This triple-cream cow's milk cheese is known as "the heavenly cheese" for good reason: it is as creamy and rich as they get. The little rounds wrapped in paper and sold in a box have always been more properly developed than the cheese I've had cut from larger wheels. The rind has a perfectly even coat of white mold that gives way immediately to a warm gray cream line that encapsulates the solid — yet spreadable inner paste. The overwhelming character is that of good cultured butter with a spate of toastiness. While not a "starter cheese" in the bloomy rind category, St. Andre is still quite approachable. You should enjoy it with Calvados, a French brandy produced nearby that is made from apples and/or

Willoughby — Jasper Hill Farm, Vermont

This washed-rind, cow's milk cheese was originally developed by cheesemaker Marisa Mauro of Ploughgate Creamery. Jasper Hill is producing the cheese now and Marisa has moved on to making butter, and you know it's got to be good so I'm going to try to get my hands on some. Willoughby is a real stinker with an orange/pinkish rind. The rind is thin and the cream line indistinct. The custardlike paste is a creamy orange color. This cheese offers flavors and aromas that may be challenging for some. It's got a lot going on: decaying forest floor, dry-aged beef, over-the-hill ripe stone fruit, and sourdough starter....none of it too unusual for a washed-rind cheese.

Harbison — Jasper Hill Farm, Vermont

A small round bloomy rind cow's milk cheese wrapped in spruce bark, Harbison is meant to be eaten with a spoon. Instructions for the consumption of this type of cheese usually call for the top to be cut off, but don't you dare do it. Just dig in. The rind is mottled with tones of white, beige, and brown. This thick, crusty rind is wildly textured like an alien landscape and has a pungent funk that may remind you of a washed-rind cheese, though this is not one. That funkiness carries through the substantial cream line and into the liquid, ivory-colored interior. The shiny paste coats your mouth with an ooey-gooey sensation that will remind you of sweetened, condensed milk or honey, though clearly without that much sweetness. There are notes of pine pitch and rotten log. Enjoy this with 'Sasseo' Primitivo.

Mt Tam, Cowgirl Creamery, California

Mt Tam is the flagship triple-cream cow's milk cheese from Cowgirl Creamery. The surface has a few tan striations peeking through the polite white mold bloom. The rind is thin but there is a substantial cream line of firm, almost chewy paste that gets softer toward the middle of course. There are some randomly-spaced, oddshaped cavities. This cheese has a pleasant chalkiness throughout which may remind you of fresh chevre. Mt Tam is overall mild in character with flavors of fungus, butter, and straw with a lactic acid tang.



Rouelle de Tarn

Rouelle de Tarn — Fromagerie Beillevaire, Midi-Pyrénées

This goat's milk cheese with a bloomy rind is formed with a hole in the middle and coated with vegetable ash. The rind is highly textured and varies in grays from white to black. The paste is almost white, liquid at room temp and slightly heavier in the center. It's tangy, goaty, grassy, pleasantly sour like buttermilk, just a hint of sweetness, a silky mouthfeel and just a hint of fleshy fruit reminiscent of kiwi. By sight alone, this cheese is a show-stopper! Pair it with a red from The Loire Valley

Quinta — Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company, California

like Chinon.

This is another bloomy rind cow's milk cheese wrapped in spruce bark, this time topped with a bay leaf. The rind is thick and crumbly; the paste mostly pudding-like and nearly liquid in the middle. There's a lot going on here: mushroom, grass, ash, bark, the bay leaf comes through, there's a tinge of white wine vinegar and Dijon mustard and the whole thing resolves to an after taste of eucalyptus. This would be great with a late-released white Rioja.

You contact us anytime at 361-453-0147 or theportaransascookbook@gmail.com



Full Transparency and Disclosure PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



News you can Use

X By Marvin Jones

President PIPOA Board of Directors

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

Board Meeting- On Tuesday, February 28, 2023, the Board held its monthly Board meeting. The following matters were considered and dealt with at the meeting. The Board passed a Motion to repave the Cobo De Bara boat ramp parking lot. With the completion of this project, all the ramps but the Encantada ramp will have been resurfaced. The Encantada ramp will not be resurfaced at this time because the City has plans to build a bridge over the canals adjacent to the Encantada ramp.

The 2023 budget was approved by the Board. This budget will be placed on the PIPOA website. Due to the vandalism of the Billish Park playground spring riders, the Board found the cost to replace them to be excessive. The PIPOA will look into alternative forms of playground equipment for the children. The Board decided to have a trial test done on the cracks in the boat ramp underwater concrete. That is, epoxy will be put in some of the large cracks to determine if the epoxy product will stand up to weather and water conditions. The Board did not reach an agreement on a prospective contract with the bulkhead repair company, Torcsill. Therefore, bulkhead by this company remains at a standstill. A committee was appointed to review the potential criteria for dock extensions. The committee will be composed of members of the ACC and the Board.

Bylaw Amendment- This is the Bylaw Amendment that will be on the upcoming ballot. Simply put, the amendment says

that a subdivision that reduces or eliminates the Maintenance charge shall cease to qualify for membership in the PIPOA. The Board of Directors asks that members vote for this amendment to the bylaws.

1.01 MEMBERSHIP. Membership in the Association shall be limited to owners of record title of a lot within those certain platted subdivisions located on Padre Island, Nueces County, Texas, identified in Exhibit A attached hereto (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Subdivisions") that are subject to a recorded Protective Covenants and Landowners Agreement or other dedicatory instrument that obligates the owners of lots in such Subdivision to pay an annual maintenance charge to the Association (the "Maintenance Charge Covenant"). Owners of lots in a Subdivision that terminates the Maintenance Charge Covenant or modifies the Maintenance Charge Covenant in such a manner that it eliminates or reduces the amount of the annual maintenance charge obligation to be paid to the Association by the owners of lots subject to such Maintenance Charge Covenant shall cease to qualify for membership in the Association and shall thereafter no longer be a member in the Association.

Election Ballots- The ballots for this year's election have gone to the printer. The ballots will be mailed out shortly. Please keep an eye out for them. Your vote for two Board Members is very important.

The Padre Isles Property Owners Association's Annual meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Padre Island Baptist Church across from Whataburger. There are two seats on the Board up for election. Only one person signed up to run during the registration period. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for write-in candidates on the ballot, and nominations for candidates may be made from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in being on the Board, here is an excellent opportunity.

Ballot Item for Flour Bluff Tax Increase

The ballot language for the proposed increase for Flour Bluff ISD turned down by voters in November reads as follows:

Flour Bluff ISD Order of Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election

Vote Yes or No

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$.9986 in Flour Bluff ISD for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 12.8 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year which is an additional \$4.191.105.

Letter from FB ISD Board

Editor's note: We received the following letter from the President of the Flour Bluff ISD board in January, prior to the filing of SB 1251.

A Message from the FBISD Board President

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

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

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

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

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

Shirley Thornton

FBISD School Board President

Sudoku

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

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Fire Calls Stations #15-#16 February 20-February 26

Fire Station #15 Commodores **Drive**

Rescue, EMS Incident, Medical assist-11

Outside Rubbish, trash, or waste fire-1

Dispatched & cancelled en route-

Fire Station #16 State Highway <u> 361</u>

Medical assist, assist EMS crew-1

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

15

Across

- 1. Figures on some Egyptian relics
- 5. Word with crop or cow
- Relative of 1-Across
- 14. Big goof
- Cantonese is spoken here
- Jalopy
- 17. Wing-shaped
- 18. Sarcastic remarks
- 19. Sign of things to come?
- 20. Sailor's favorite film?
- Oil of wintergreen, e.g.
- 24. Natterjack, e.g.
- 25. Sticking point?
- 28. Professional obi wearer
- 32. Preschoolers?
- 35. 28th of 50
- 38. The "dismal science," for short
- 39. Beach lover's favorite film?
- 43. Face defacer
- 44. "In God We Trust" is one
- 45. Strange prop?
- 46. In truth
- 49. Milady's
- Diamond enlarger
- 54. Beneficial
- 58. Treasurer's favorite film?
- 63. TV colonel
- 64. Metallic fabric 65. Brusque
- 66. Keep up with a ham?
- 67. Offshore 68. Word in a Descartes
- conclusion
- 69. In disarray
- 70. Monthly expense, for some
- 71. In the public eye

18

Down

- 1. "Penny-wise, poundfoolish," e.g.
- 2. Jam session
- features Factory
- 4. Thoroughfare
- Muslim judge (Var.) 6. "___ turns out . . . "
- 7. The eyes have it
- 8. Can't help but
- Give one's consent
- 10. More oscitant Flamboyant
- Spanish surrealist
- Noted British school
- Sunder
- 21. Take down

- 22. Beldam 26. Unfamiliar
- 27. Midterm, e.g.
- 29. Mary Stuart, e.g.
- 30. Sharpen, as a razor
- 31. A chip in the pot, perhaps
- 32. Jungle warning
- 33. Without repetition
- 34. Stack blower of 475 B.C.
- 36. From ___ Z
- 37. One in Adam's clan 40. WWII fighters
- 41. Postal abbr.
- 42. Public square

47. Wacko

68

- 48. Rameses portrayer
- 50. Dime and chain
- 52. Diametric
- 53. Opposite of tape
- 55. A way to habituate Cliff projection
- 57. "___ America" (TV
- news segment)
- 58. Not us
- 59. Pigeon's
- destination, sometimes 60. They may be
- inflated or swollen
- 61. Sign to heed Heroic deed

Police Blotter

JFK Causeway to Aquarius intersection

Disturbance

13300 block SPID 8 p.m. February 27 13500 block SPID 4 p.m. February 22 Destruction or

Criminal Mischief Traffic

47 Traffic Stops

13500 block SPID 9 p.m. February 28 Crash

13300 block SPID 7 p.m. February 25 Crash

13300 block SPID 6 p.m. February 24 Parking Violation

13300 block SPID 5 a.m. February 23 Crash

13500 block SPID 2 a.m. February 22 Crash 13300 block SPID 11 a.m. February 20 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Property

Ordinance Violation

13800 block Jolly Roger 5 p.m. February 26 Theft of Services 14300 block Aloha 2 p.m. February 23 Unauthorized Use

of a Motor Vehicle 14200 block Jackfish 9 a.m. February 23 Theft of Services

SH 361/SPID 6 a.m. February 23 Crash 15400 block Gun Cay 2 a.m. February 25 Trespassing 15400 block SPID 5 p.m. February 24 Burglary

15400 block Gun Cay 2 a.m. February 20 Trespassing Disturbance 13800 block Captains 10 p.m. February 25 Noise

13800 block Captains 9 p.m. February 25 February 25 Noise Ordinance Violation

February 20-28th

14100 block Cabana East 5 p.m. February 21

Suspicious Person 14300 block Commodores 10 p.m. February 25 13400 block Whitecap 8 p.m. February 24 Palmira/Encantada Midnight February 25

Traffic

214 Traffic Stops

15200 block SPID 2 p.m. February 25 Crash Whitecap/Aquarius 1 p.m. February 21 Crash 14400 block SPID Noon February 21 Crash 14400 block SPID 11 a.m. February 20 Crash 16500 block SPID 7 a.m. February 21 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city

Crimes against Property

14700 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. February 24 Trespassing Disturbance

Leeward/St. Augustine 8 p.m. February 26 14700 block Whitecap 2 a.m. February 25 14700 block Whitecap Midnight February 25 14700 block Whitecap 10 p.m. February 24 Suspicious Person

14800 block Whitecap 9 p.m. February 25

15200 block Leeward 4 a.m. February 24

81 Traffic Stops

15500 block Windward 7 p.m. February 25 Crash SH 361/Newport Pass 11 a.m. February 27 Crash





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To place an ad you can call me at 361-834-1382 or Email your ads to: moonclassad@twc.com No texts please

Costs start at \$12 for 25 words, 20 cents a word after that per issue. For a small additional charge, your ad can be centered, made larger or pictures or clip art can be added. Ads with payment can be taken to our office at: 14646 Compass St., Suite 3

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The Island Newspaper since 1996

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Marsha@starkeyproperties.com No phone calls please

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Al-Anon & AA Meetings

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in your family? Try Al-Anon Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm Sundays at Padre Island Baptist Church **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS**

The Sunset 7 AA Meetings are held on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7 PM at: The Presbyterian Church On the Island

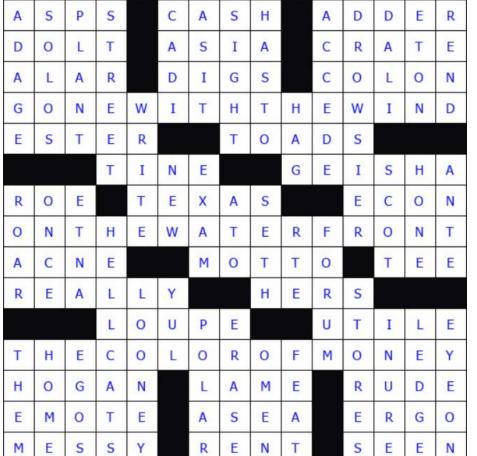
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr. In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at The Pavillon on the Boardwalk

Near Padre Bali

Are you experienced in Adobe InDesign?

The Island Moon is looking for some part-time layout help! Contact The Island Moon at 361-949-7700

Crossword Solution







ACCESS





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Flour Bluff ROTC Wins! Area 10 State Champions NJROTC SeaHornet 4th place Academic Test Score - Camden

The Flour Bluff NJROTC SeaHornet Battalion has officially been named the NJROTC Area 10 State Champions!

Flour Bluff NJROTC placed 1st in Overall Drill, 1st in Personnel Inspection, 3rd Unarmed Regulation, 3rd Unarmed Exhibition, 1st Armed Regulation, 1st Armed Exhibition, 1st in Color Guard, 1st in Academics, and 1st in Physical Fitness. Team members also earned multiple individual awards:

1st place Armed Drill Commander -Izmael Granados

1st place Curl-ups - Jacob Cisneros

1st place Academic Test Score - Henry

2nd place Unarmed Drill Commander -

3rd place Academic Test Score - David Berry and Fabian Mendez-Vasquez

5th place Curl-ups - Izabella Perez

Flour Bluff NJROTC would like to thank the staff and our community for the tremendous support of the program. Thank you to the Flour Bluff NJROTC Booster Club and parents for enduring the early mornings, uniform prep, long bus trips, and late evening practices. You have given so much to the program, and we are truly thankful for your support. Thank you to William Tirado, Steven Robey, and Beth Pletcher, who, as coaches, mentors, and academic motivators, have given the teams this opportunity to succeed.

Bravo Zulu! SeaDevils, SeaHawks, SeaPhantoms, and SeaMonkeys!

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening marketplace trust, Better Business Bureau (BBB) knows that consumer protection is essential to maintaining a strong economy. Consumers who fall victim to unethical and fraudulent business practices or scams often lose confidence in the marketplace, affecting their future purchasing behavior and quality of life. Victims' personal information is

often compromised, significantly increasing

the risk of experiencing identity theft - a

crime that can take years to recover.

BBB Tip: Four steps to protect yourself

this National Consumer Protection Week

To protect themselves and their loved ones, consumers must play defense and engage with an increasingly digital marketplace responsibly and safely. Organizations and agencies across the U.S. provide countless resources to help people navigate a complex marketplace, and there is no better time to refresh your knowledge about protecting yourself than during National Consumer Protection Week.

Recognized annually during the first week of March, consumer advocacy and protection groups capitalize on National Consumer Protection Week to bring awareness to issues within the marketplace that could place people at risk of losing their time, money or personal information. Multiple government agencies, such as the FTC, FBI and CFPB, aggressively pursue and prosecute criminal fraud across the country. Still, the best defense against falling victim will always be the person engaging in the transaction.

As a consumer, there are a few simple steps you can take to protect yourself from a negative marketplace transaction:

Research. Spend time using resources such as BBB. org (or Give.org for charities) to search for reviews or complaints before handing over any money. Check for multiple contact methods and verify they are putting you in contact with the right business or person. Check the terms and conditions, including return or refund policies and warranty limitations - pay particular attention to the fine print.

Relate. Compare the price or estimate with other businesses to ensure you get a fair price for the product or service. Be wary of too-goodto-be-true deals, especially for name-brand products or projects that take a substantial amount of materials to complete. Check warranties, guarantees and policies across businesses – one that is a bit more expensive but has a more comprehensive warranty may be a better option.

Review. Take a step back from the interaction and take a breather. Scammers rely on impulsive decisions and immediate payment before the consumer can check if

everything makes sense. Trust your gut - if something feels off or doesn't seem right, it may be best to walk away. Get as many specifics of the transaction as possible in writing, including delivery or completion dates, warranties and verbal promises.

Report. Less than 5% of victims of mass-market fraud report their experience to BBB or a government agency. Reporting scams helps organizations learn more about how people are exposed to unethical or fraudulent practices, which they can use to educate the public on how to avoid falling victim. Provide as much detail as possible – it is only through your reports that unethical practices come to light and may help you recover your identity or losses.

Use Official BBB Complaints

Encountering a marketplace issue can be frustrating, especially when it may seem that a business is not giving a dispute enough attention. While most challenges are easily solved by communicating directly with the business, consumers can also rely on BBB to help find a solution through its dispute resolution system, which begins after an official complaint has been submitted. By working with businesses and consumers to find a mutually agreeable resolution, BBB strengthens trust between buyers and sellers of products or services and can help remove misunderstandings.

Use BBB Scam Tracker

Unfortunately, some issues are not with legitimate sellers or businesses but with con artists and scammers who are wellversed in appearing trustworthy. Using various strategies, these individuals often leverage human emotion and ongoing situations to steal from the public. By taking advantage of new technologies, scammers can cast their net across a much larger area by spoofing caller IDs, creating lookalike websites, providing fake investment dashboards and other highly sophisticated methods to appear legitimate.

Consumers who encounter scams are encouraged to report their experience to BBB Scam Tracker. If interacting with a suspicious business or individual, use BBB Scam Tracker to search for their name, company or other specifics to see if other people have encountered an issue with them. Users can search for reported scams by zin code, website, business phone number, and many other categories. In 2021, BBB Scam Tracker helped save consumers an estimated \$31 million.

For more information about how to protect yourself from unethical business practices and to search for BBB Business Profiles on companies across North America, visit BBB.org.



is their first time spending winter here. Photo by Mary Craft











The Glenn Miller Orchestra perfomred at A&M Corpus Christi this week. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



These visitors from the Austin area

Photo by Mary Craft

enjoying our beach.

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth found a turtle shell at Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach

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The PA Rockers last show for the season at Bernie's will be on March 29th and they won't be playing there on Spring Break March 15.

Let's review, shall we? It is now March and Spring Breakers will be spitting on our collective necks very shortly and the Festering Den of Sin won't be far behind. If the ebbs and flows of years past have any similarity with what's coming this year, then we should be buried in Spring Breakers in a couple of weeks. As of now, we've endured most of winter and have Valentines and Mardi Gras in our rear views. The weather is trying to become Spring-like but all of the weather patterns are wacked-out right now so it's anybody's guess. We have St. Patty's Day in a couple of weeks on the 17th and we will spring forward with Daylight Savings Time in one week on the 12th. I know it seems like the Winter Texans just got here, but the majority of them will be going home by Easter when the rates start to go up and the northern tundra start to thaw. The PA Rockers last show at Bernie's this year will be on March 29th and they won't be playing *Spring Break* on the 15th either for obvious reasons. Then the island is kind of quiet until Memorial Day when school lets out and then its Summer proper and we crawl from air conditioner to air conditioner and only make right turns.



Janelle Shetter performed the last show at Island Wine last Saturday.

Island Wine no mas...

Island Wine had their last hurrah last weekend with a bitter sweet "going away" party with some of the musicians who played there regularly Janelle Shetters, Michael Amos, Barbara Jenice and friends. Proprietor Lara White opened the venue five years ago. It's a casual wine bar with a variety of local musicians, a karaoke night and an open mic night. The menu says it's a like a "coffee bar with wine". They filled a nice niche and me and my Mermaid Gal tried to make it by there every weekend. It was a comfortable place and has a laid back vibe to it. Enter a new landlord who doubled the rent to an unaffordable amount. Lara has been looking for a new location to no avail. These are good folks and I'm sorry to see this happen



Minnesota Al played before the Gaff's BELT SANDER ŘACEŠ last Saturďay.

On the local front...

I gotta tell you, I am really looking forward to some more music venues coming on line. Currently, Port A doesn't have a whole lot going on. Of course, Shorty's will come back online hopefully soon. Those guys have a monumental task ahead of them. And Bron's has also been closed but has used the time wisely to rearrange the living room and get ready

to pump their live music offerings up a couple of notches. Keep an eye on those guys this year. I see good things happening over there. I know they enlarged their stage and put up some new professional stage lighting and shuffled some stuff around. I do see where Kody's has picked up a little of Shorty's slack with some shows by Ty Dietz and John Elijah. And, **Tommy Saad** over at *Treasure Island* is also about ready to bring back his live music program. I know all of this will eventually happen, but this place hasn't been the same since Giggity's and the Back Porch closed. And, without Shorty's too, we have just gone through a real dry spell. I know there's some action stirring over in the flats that will eventually happen and I have confidence that we're just going through a little slow spell and the Port A we know and love with music spilling out on every block... is right around the corner... RIGHT?



Ty Dietz will play Kody's on Sunday. Scattered shots...

I had a pleasant surprise this week when a friend of mine in the world of power tool racing, Rusty Daniels, who helps Kip out with the BELT SANDER RACES, noticed that I hadn't been racing lately because my belt sander was broken and offered to help me build me a new racer. It still has a few bugs in it but it's soon to be a power to be reckoned with. The Gaff was PACKED to the rafters with mostly Winter Texans on Saturday for the races and had a couple of dozen racers signed up. I can honestly say, I almost won. My Moon Monkey goes real fast now. YAY! Before and after the races they had Minnesota Al on stage and Jim Dugan played later that night. Thanks Rusty. The Moon Monkey is back!

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

This weekend is the Oyster Fest in Fulton. Many years ago I was GM at the Dallas Club in Rockport and actually raced a blue crab at the Oyster Fest back then. I'll never forget it. There's a trick to getting a blue crab to move a little faster... minnows too. Pro tip: crabs either can't hear you or ain't listening. On Friday, March 3, Bron's Backyard will reopen for the season with the **Independent Thieves** playing on Friday and the Free Beer Band performing on Saturday. Their shows are 8:30-11:30 at *Bron's*. The **Dunebillies** will be bringing some tasty trop-rock to the Gaff on Friday On Saturday the great string band, Free Beer Band, of which me and Paul Fain actually named, will be playing Bron's. I may be a little biased but I think these cats rock... in a folky sort of way. On Sunday, you can catch Ty Dietz at Kody's and Tumble Dry Low at Bernie's. On Tuesday, there will be a FULL MOON and the monthly beach fire. And on Wednesday, there will be a Jammin' Circle at Woody's Last Stand and the PA Rockers will play Bernie's. And don't forget that SandFest is coming in the middle of April and PalmFest will be here Cinco de Mayo weekend with Uncle Lucius, Larry Joe Taylor, Brooke Graham, Ruben V and Lane Smith. That ought to hold you for a while. Be safe out there.





SANDER RACES last Saturday.



B16

have been busy getting ready for this coming tourist season.

LIVE MUSIC

Thursday, March 2

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff ChillBIllies @ Oysterfest Fulton David Martinez @ Brewster Southside Rodney Carrington @ American Bank Center Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's David Martinez @ Brewster Southside Carson Jeffrey @ Brewster Downtown

Friday, March 3

Independent Thieves @ Bron's Backyard Dunebillies @ Gaff **Spazmatics** @ Brewster Downtown Triptonite @ Vernon's Alley Catz @ Brewster Southside Crosstown Expressway @ Pelican Lounge Passing Strangers @ Rockit's The Groove @ La

Saturday,

Playa Downtown

Ruben Limas @

Blackbeard's

March 4 Free Beer Band @ Bron's Backyard Jam Band @ Treasure Island Jim Dugan @ Gaff John Cortez @ Cassidy's Pub Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside Mike & the Moonpies @ Brewster Downtown AfterGlow @ Pelican Lounge Robin Blue @ The Landing Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Chainlinks @

Sunday, March 5

Rockit's

Ty Dietz @ Kody's Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeards Ruben Limas @ Gully's

TONIG-IT Monday,

March 6 Open Mic @ House of Rock Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Tuesday, March 7

MAR 4

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

PA Rockers @

Jammin' Circle @

Woody's Last Stand

John Steinhardt @

Pelican Lounge

Billy Snipes @

Ruben Limas @

Scuttlebutt's

Blackbeard's

Thursday,

Island Italian

Ruben Limas @

March 9

Bernies

Wednesday, Treasure Island March 8 Open Mic w/ Brad MAR 4 Ethridge @ Gaff

The

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Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's <u>Friday,</u>

March 10

Cruise Control @ Bron's Backyard **Bottles and Bandits** (a) Treasure Island Red: A Tributer to Taylor Swift @ Brewster Downtown Michael Burrts @ Pelican Lounge The Groove @ Sugar Shack Rockport Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Jam Band @ La Playa by the Sea

Saturday, <u> March 11</u>

BELT SANDER RACES 3 PM @ Gaff Triptonite @ Bron's Backyard Red Tide @ Treasure Island KISS Tribute @ **PACT** Kash'd Out @ House of Rock Afterglow @ CC Harley Davidson Pecos & the Rooftops @ Brewster Downtown









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