

On the Rocks A7



Flour Bluff Football A9







Three Chords and the Truth B16



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Islana Moon

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Weekly **FREE**



By Dale Rankin

This week we are thankful that the Thanksgiving holiday is behind us and things can settle back to normal here on our little sandbar. If you still have relatives from OTB at your house take them to the La Posada Kickoff Party Friday at Hardknocks and tell them they have to bid on something and maybe that will scare them back OTB...

Witch bottles on the beach



Jace Tunnell, the Director of Community Engagement at Harte Research Institute reports that he has been finding "witch bottles" washed up on area beaches with the latest being on November 15. Jace says he has found "about eight" of them over the past six years and they contain sticks and leaves that people in the 16th and 17th centuries believed could put a spell on the person who opened them. He says he doesn't know for sure where the bottles are coming from since they don't have any date or writing on them but some have gooseneck barnacles on them so they been bobbing around out there for a while. The good news is that the mal spell is only released from the bottle if you open it so if you find one just take a picture and send it to Jace at the Harte. Who knows what evil lurks in a sealed witch bottle...best not to find out.

JFK work

As we went to press mid-week there was late word from the Texas Department of Transportation that the work on the JFK Bridge is ahead of schedule and the previously announced schedule we placed on our Facebook page theislandmoonnewspaper on Monday has changed.

Texas Department of Transportation contractors finished concrete median barrier work early so beginning Friday, weather permitting, contractors are scheduled to start resurfacing travel lanes on the bridge's main span with a polyester polymer overlay that will require alternating, continuous single-lane closures on the bridge. The contractor's schedule shows completion of this overlay

The inside lanes eastbound and

work by mid-December.

A Solution to the Flooding of Island Homes

ISAC subcommittee suggests a way to prevent flooding of

adjacent homes due to changes in elevation regulations By Dale Rankin

A sub-committee of the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) has issued a plan that would prevent the flooding Island homes due to changes in federal regulations two years ago. When the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

issued a new flood map for Padre Island in 2021 it raised the elevation for new homes from the previous level of nine feet above Base Flood Elevation (BFI) to ten feet and an additional foot was added to that to lower flood insurance rates across Padre Island. BFI is defined under FEMA regulations as the elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given

This caused flooding in dozens of existing Island homes which

Flooding cont. on A8



Current solution to the

problem.

Decision on opening Island Canals expected at December 12 Board meeting Ribbon cutting planned for Don Patricio Bridge over dry canal



By Dale Rankin

A decision on whether to connect existing Island canals to the new

canals at the Whitecap North Padre Island development and to the canal under the new Don Patricio Bridge and Lake Padre Don Pat cont. on A3

Where are the birds!?



Blue Jay by Mike Williams

By Martin Hagne One of the most asked questions we get here at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is "Where have my yard birds gone?" It's a question we get often, especially during late summer and fall. If you have birds using your feeders regularly, and they seem to disappear in fall, its likely a natural cause and part of the natural cycle.

Nature cont. on A8

A little Island history

How the Don Patricio water exchange bridge became a reality

By Dale Rankin With the ribbon cutting for the new Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge a week away we take a look back at how the bridge came into being over the last two decades.

When the Corpus Christi City Council was putting together a \$950 million bond package for the 2004 election there was not a single item on it for Padre Island in spite of the fact that our share of the cost would top \$100 mil-

lion. This was in the time before

the Island United Political Action Committee (IUPAC) existed and the oft quoted attitude at city hall was, "The Island takes care of itself." Island votes split among candidates and those elected could ignore the needs of Padre Island without fear of political consequences. But given the Island's propensity for voting (see the voting results on this page) the powers that be decided to throw The Island a bone to make sure we voted in favor of the bonds. The company that owned the ma-

jority of the land on both sides of SPID from Commodores to Whitecap which included Lake Padre had a permit with the U.S. Corps of Engineers that required them to have water flowing under Park Road 22 by the end of the year 2020 and the plan was to place culverts under the roadway at an estimated cost of \$900,000 paid by the developer. The plan was to include \$1.2 million on the bond package to upgrade the culverts to a water

History cont. on page A5

By the numbers

November 7 vote on City Proposition A

84% of Islanders voted against

211,265 Registered voters in **Nueces County**

Citywide

21,288 (10.5%) Total votes cast in City Proposition A election 6588 (31%) Citywide votes in favor of City Proposition A 14,700 (69%) Citywide votes against City Proposition A

Island

8407 Registered Island voters 2005 (25%) Island votes cast in City Proposition A election 1730 (84%) Island votes against City Proposition A 325 (16%) Island votes in favor of City Proposition A

Plan those La Posada Parties Now

Bay fishing guides joining as parade toy collectors

By Bob Corbett Parade Co-Captain We have around 25 boats signed up for both upcoming lighted boat parades on Friday and Saturday nights, the 8th and 9th. If you would like to be part of this wonderful Island tradition, just go online to laposadafoundation. org and register. Any size boat is welcome. Then attend the mandatory Captains briefing at the Padre Island Yacht Club, 6:00 Monday night, the 4th. Deadline to register is Sunday the 3rd. For those new to this long running Island event the parade winds through the north canals on Friday and the south canals on Saturday. The beautiful Christ-

amber lights and a US Marine onboard. Flashing a white light from your dock signals these boats to pull up and collect new unwrapped toys for the US Marine's Toys for Tots. Last year we collected enough toys to fill up a couple of trucks. Yes, we live on a very generous Island. This year we have invited our local bay guides to participate.

mas decorated boats are escorted

by collector boats with flashing

We've heard we might have enough guide boats to tow Santa's sleigh.

Around cont. on A5

Island Moon





<u>It's Time to La Posada!</u>

Kickoff party Friday, December 1

The Kickoff Party for the La Posada Lighted Boat Parades will be held on Friday, December 1 at Hardknocks Bar & Grill with a live and silent auction. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is no charge but attendees must bring a new unwrapped toy for entrance fee!! Music by The Groove.

The silent auction begins at 6:30, the live auction at 7:30.

A few items for the Live Auction

- \$500 HEB gift cards
- African Safari Hunt
- Youth Hunt Trip
- Dallas Cowboys VS. Detroit Lions Tickets
- Cooking Class with Chef Gail
 - **HONDA** Generator
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- Guided Bay Trip
- Offshore Fishing
 - Americana Hand-Made Quilt

And much more.....

The La Posada event is a fundraiser for the Marines Toys for Tots organization, Seashore Charter Schools, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Coast Bend which helps children in need of homes.





Bird on Page A2

I'm sure you have gotten the message that the bird published on Page A2 was most definitely not a Sora, but the equally elusive Wilson's Snipe. Both birds are a couple of the more elusive of those found at the Brid Center.

In this shot a Sora confronts a Snipe, and the Snipe elects to go elsewhere. The Sora is in the foreground, Snipe jumping into the air. Feel Free to publish it. It was taken 11-20-23. Another of the refuges more elusive critters it the least Bitten, pictured here as it stalks through the reeds. Taken 11-17-23.

This is my second trip to area and I love the birding opportunities, we're looking to relocate to the Corpus Christi area next year.

Bryan Wilburn

Peyton CO









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Seashore Middle Academy Theater students showcased their talents just before Thanksgiving break. Great job! Photos By Shannon Trial











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Dear Editor,

In reference to last week's article about the Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge and the portion that reads as follows: "Tim Lange the managing partner of Lake Padre Development which is building the marina and other amenities around Lake Padre and which holds the permit requiring that the canal be connected to the PIPOA canals told the Island Moon that he will not cut the canal through from Lake Padre to the bridge until an agreement is reached to connect it through to the PIPOA canals.", I see this as one of the most extraordinary chess moves of all time to take place in our area!!

For those of us that are just plain tired of the shenanigans from our PIPOA Board concerning the water exchange into our canals, we were thrilled to read this!

The Board Meetings are a constant dodgeand-weave against any accountability. For those who have lived on this island for decades and have waited endlessly for the bridge to actually come to fruition, it's a serious lesson in patience. Watching the Board all pointing fingers is simply tiresome. It is apparent to anyone watching that there is zero listening from the Board to any neighborhood members that take the opportunity to speak. Their minds are made up and no cogent arguments will sway their opinion

from those that they had when they walked into the room. At a recent meeting we heard our illustrious board had hired an attorney (read as WE the PIPOA Residents hired) to communicate with Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC ("DBH"), but OUR attorney tells the PIPOA RESIDENTS he cannot share "Client-Attorney" information with US. WE ARE THE CLIENT and we pay his bill. I'd like to add that I believe from what the Board said at that same meeting, they managed to do such a bang-up job closing lines of communication that they had no choice but to spend a significant amount of money to hire an attorney to straighten out the mess they created. How much is that costing us???

Now I understand we have also paid for TWO water flow studies by LJA Engineering and now we are awaiting a THIRD study. So President Drew, it sure looks like you didn't like what the first two said and now you are hoping the third study will say what YOU want it to say??? Will we potentially be paying for a FOURTH study?? Connect the PIPOA canals so the water can exchange as the permit intended!!!

Lastly, ponder this... If a developer went to the City to plan our existing canal system today, it would require water exchange to guarantee the water quality before it would be approved, just ask Whitecap NPI. The

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



bubblers in the Cruiser canal don't cut it and the water quality is for a lack of a better term, crappy.

So, if you've made it this far and you're wondering why not write to the Board directly??? You try it, see how far it gets you. You get ignored or deleted, repeatedly.

So, Tim Lange, I don't know you but I sure want to send you a Christmas basket with your favorite bottle and a great cigar! Good luck Sir, you may be our saving grace.

Signed, Peeved on Padre

(Editor's note: Name withheld by request)

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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H.E.B.

payments, etc. may be left at the Moon Office.

Celebrate A Homemade Christmas At The Alamo!

Anyone traveling to San Antonio this weekend can celebrate A Homemade Christmas at the Shrine of Texas Liberty.

The event on Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Alamo Gardens will allow visitors to experience the holiday season through the eyes of early settlers as they lived on the Texas frontier in the mid-1800s. This family-friendly event will feature period crafts for all ages, including yarn dolls, Victorian greeting cards, and pomander balls. There will be living history demonstrations such as Christmas storytelling, carol singers, candy making, blacksmithing, leatherworking and more.

A Homemade Christmas is free and open to the public. Visitors are welcome to stop into the Alamo Gift Shop for holiday shopping. Featured gift ideas include the Official 2023 Alamo Christmas Ornament as well as the Bella The Alamo Cat Ornament!

Don Pat cont. from A1

will be made at the Tuesday, December 12, meeting of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association according to board President Drew Diggins.

The seven-member board has been delaying

a decision while awaiting a fourth study on water flow through the existing PIPOA canals which Diggins said was received this week, with the results to be announced at the December 12 meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Corpus Christi Resort, 15202 Windward Drive.

Meanwhile City of Corpus Christi officials are moving ahead with plans for a ribbon cutting at the new bridge at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 8. The canal under the bridge is not expected to be open by the December 8 date as there is currently no agreement to connect it to the Whitecap NPI site and to the adjacent canals owned by the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA). Tim Lange the managing partner of Lake Padre Development which is building the marina and other amenities around Lake Padre and which holds the permit requiring that the canal be connected to the PIPOA canals told the Island Moon that he will not cut the canal through from Lake Padre to the bridge

Discussions continued this week between city officials, PIPOA officials, and representatives of the private developers to resolve the issue but no resolution had been reached by mid-week

until an agreement is reached to connect it

through to the PIPOA canals.

Christmas Time (Advent) at Island Presbyterian Church

By Bob Orr

Elder and Worship Committee Chair Island Presbyterian Church

IPC invites all our neighbors and friends to join us on our Christmas journey and the celebration of the birth of Christ at 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78418 (www.islandpresby.com). We begin the Christmas season on Saturday, December 2nd at 3:00 PM when we will gather for the annual "Hanging of the Greens". We will decorate the sanctuary and courtyard, place Chrismons on the tree and enjoy the fellowship of one another by bringing your favorite holiday treats (sweet or savory) to share. In addition, light snacks and drinks will be provided by the church. Help support our troops by filling Christmas stockings (bring appropriate items to fill the stockings) and writing Christmas cards. Join us for a short devotional and the singing of your favorite Christmas carols before we dismiss at 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited, please come! Advent worship services will be held at 10:00 AM each Sunday morning in December until Christmas. Each service in Advent will have a special lighting of the Advent wreath candles which symbolize Hope,

Peace, Joy and Love; the bright light from the candles is an expression of the growing anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ. Pastor Ken Ritchie will deliver a special series of messages of Hope, Preparation, Joy and Love each Sunday.

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th brings us to our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. We will hold our regular 10:00 AM service that will be a "Lessons and Carols" service, and at 6:00 PM we will hold a Communion candlelight service. Hear the scriptures prophesying the coming of the Messiah and the birth story, sing your favorite Christmas Carols, and as we prepare to go home to our own celebrations, we will light our own individual Christmas candle, turn down the house lights, and close with the singing of "Silent Night". You can join us on line via our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/ipc.cctx) or ZOOM (the link to ZOOM is on our webpage, www.islandpresby.com). The members and staff of Island Presbyterian Church invite all of you to join them on their journey to Bethlehem and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Tax Money

It is unbelievable how much tax money is squandered by the city and also the state. Desal is a perfect example and North Beach is another. Common sense tell us that if new industry that uses a lot of water wants to come to this city they should be the ones that pay for desal and not by an increase in the water bills.

It is my understanding that tax money has already been given for a study of the North Beach canal project and if approved most of the money to build the canal project will be tax money, whereas, who will benefit the most? The developers who get a free ride and who else. Using tax money for projects simply kills free enterprise. If we could

figure out a way to collect the rainwater that falls on city buildings in the city it would be enough to overcome the need for desal, that is, repeated, if new industry would buy their own desal enterprise? That being said, I have noticed that we get just about as much or more city news in the Island Moon as we do from any other source and very little Island news from other sources. The bottom line being; we are being overtaxes. If not, where does the squandered money come from? Bobbie Kimbrell

Thanksgiving

Flour Bluff

Another Thanksgiving has passed, and after reading stories about the holiday in your last addition, I had to make a few remarks. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Thanksgiving Day Proclamation in 1863 during the American Civil War, making it a formal holiday. In his proclamation, he explains why we are to be thankful. It is for the abundance of natural resources this coun-

Since 1991

try had to offer and for its ever-expanding population, even amid the war. There are several references to the Almighty and zero references to pirates, pilgrims, or pumpkin

Most sincerely, George S. Midla

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Island Resident

(Looking forward to the Board Meeting on the 12th)

A 4 Island Moon December 1, 2023

Senior Moments



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon By Dotson Lewis

Trench Warfare-Part 2

Dotson's Note: The French and German armies adopted different tactical doctrines: the French relied on the attack with speed and surprise, and the Germans relied on firepower, investing heavily in howitzers and machine guns. The British lacked an official tactical doctrine, with an officer corps that rejected theory in favor of pragmatism. Thanks to Joe Mix and Fred Shope, who were both World War 1 combat veterans, for the facts contained in this report and thanks to Ernest Brooks for the photos.

While the armies expected to use entrenchments and cover, they did not allow for the effect of defenses in depth. They required a deliberate approach to seizing positions from which fire support could be given for the next phase of the attack, rather than a rapid move to break the enemy's line. It was assumed that artillery could still destroy entrenched troops, or at least suppress them sufficiently for friendly infantry and cavalry to maneuver.

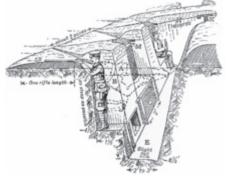


French Trench in Northeastern France

Digging-in when defending a position was a standard practice by the start of WWI. To attack frontally was to court crippling losses, so an outflanking operation was the preferred method of attack against an entrenched enemy. After the Battle of the Aisne in September 1914, an extended series of attempted flanking moves, and matching extensions to the fortified defensive lines, developed into the «race to the sea", by the end of which German and Allied armies had produced a matched pair of trench lines from the Swiss border in the south to the North Sea coast of Belgium.

By the end of October 1914, the whole front in Belgium and France had solidified into lines of trenches, which lasted until the last weeks of the war. Mass infantry assaults were futile in the face of artillery fire, as well as rapid rifle and machine-gun fire. Both sides concentrated on breaking up enemy attacks and on protecting their own troops by digging deep into the ground. After the buildup of forces in 1915, the Western Front became a stalemated struggle between equals, to be decided by attrition. Frontal assaults, and their associated casualties, became inevitable because the continuous trench lines had no open flanks. Casualties of the defenders matched those of the attackers, as vast reserves were expended in costly counter-attacks or exposed to the attacker's massed artillery. There were periods in which rigid trench warfare broke down, such as during the Battle of the Somme, but the lines never moved very far. The war would be won by the side that was able to commit the last reserves to the Western Front. Trench warfare prevailed on the Western Front until the Germans launched their Spring Offensive on 21 March 1918. Trench warfare also took place on other fronts, including in Italy and at Gallipoli.

Armies were also limited by logistics. The heavy use of artillery meant that ammunition expenditure was far higher in WWI than in any previous conflict. Horses and carts were insufficient for transporting large quantities over long distances, so armies had trouble moving far from railheads. This greatly slowed advances, making it impossible for either side to achieve a breakthrough that would change the war. This situation would only be altered in WWII with greater use of motorized vehicles.



Trench Construction Diagram
- From A 1914 British Infantry
Manual

Trenches were longer, deeper, and better defended by steel, concrete, and barbed wire than ever before. They were far stronger and more effective than chains of forts, for they formed a continuous network, sometimes with four or five parallel lines linked by interfacings. They were dug far below the surface of the earth out of reach of the heaviest artillery.

Grand battles with the old maneuvers were out of the question. Only by bombardment, sapping, and assault could the enemy be shaken, and such operations had to be conducted on an immense scale to produce appreciable results. Indeed, it is questionable whether the German lines in France could ever have been broken if the Germans had not wasted their resources in unsuccessful assaults, and the blockade by sea had not gradually cut off their supplies. In such warfare no single general could strike a blow that would make him immortal; the "glory of fighting" sank down into the dirt and mire of trenches and dugouts.

Early World War I Trenches were simple. They lacked traverses, and according to prewar doctrine were to be packed with men fighting shoulder to shoulder. This doctrine led to heavy casualties from artillery fire. This vulnerability, and the length of the front to be defended, soon led to frontline trenches being held by fewer men. The defenders augmented the trenches themselves with barbed wire strung in front to impede movement; wiring parties went out every night to repair and improve these forward defenses.

The small, improvised trenches of the first few months grew deeper and more complex, gradually becoming vast areas of interlocking defensive works. They resisted both artillery bombardment and mass infantry assault. Shell-proof dugouts became a high priority. A well-developed trench had to be at least 8 ft., deep to allow, men to walk upright and still be protected.



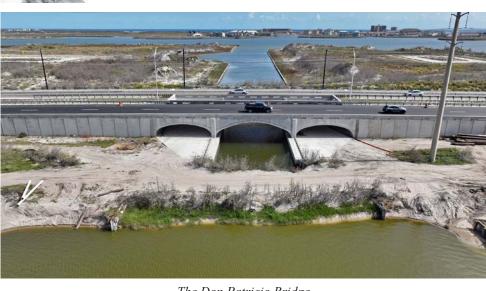
Trench Of The Änäkäinen Fortification - <u>Lieksa Finland</u>

Dotson's Other Note: There were three standard ways to dig a trench: entrenching, sapping, and tunneling. Entrenching, where a man would stand on the surface and dig downwards, was most efficient, as it allowed a large digging party to dig the full length of the trench simultaneously. However, entrenching left the diggers exposed above ground and hence could only be carried out when free of observation, such as in a rear area or at night. Sapping involved extending the trench by digging away at the end face. The diggers were not exposed, but only one or two men could work on the trench at a time. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397. It's your two hours; please let us hear from you. TO BE CONTINUED



Stuff I Heard on the Island

y Dale Rankin



The Don Patricio Bridge

Sometimes you just have to laugh. As we sit here today there is going to be a ribbon cutting on a \$16.3 million Don Patricio water exchange bridge which has been in the works since 2004. It is a beautiful bridge with graceful arches instead of utilitarian I beams and within a few years will be the centerpiece of our Island as it connects the two bifurcated slices of it with pedestrian and cart paths, and eventually by a waterway. But unless something changes in the next week there will be an elephant in the room - there will be no water under it except groundwater trapped by earthen berms on both sides. A bridge to nowhere. But before we hop on the usual bandwagon and blame the city we need a little reality check. The city has met its obligation – the bridge is built. The private landowners on the Lake Padre side have met their obligation - there is a canal from Lake Padre that connects to the bridge site. The private owners on the west side of the bridge have met their obligation – the canal and bulkheads are in place. The holdup is the Board of Directors at the Padre Isles Property Owners Association who at the eleventh hour have thrown up a series of roadblocks to connecting the existing PIPOA-owned canals to the canal that runs through the Whitecap NPI

A little background

In 2014 when the water exchange bridge was starting to look like it would become a reality there was a push to make sure the canal under the bridge would connect to the old Island canals in order to meet the requirement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that those waterways be connected by (eventually) the end of 2023. A letter was sent by then PIPOA Executive Director Maybeth Christensen to the city and the Corps at the behest of the board in favor of building the bridge and connecting it to the PIPOA canals. I was at the meeting where that vote was taken and there was no dissention about making that connection. In fact, the PIPOA then and now held a Corps permit that had to renewed every five years which required that for renewal had progress had to be shown toward getting Gulf water from the bridge into the PIPOA canals to improve water quality.

There had never been any question of not connecting the old and new canals since the ownership of land from Lake Padre all the way to the PIPOA canals was in single hands. Paul Schexnailder, who was the managing partner of the company that owned the land said recently he had renewed the PIPOA Corps permit a total of five times. That permit first came into being when the canals were first dug five decades ago and allowed for the very existence of the canals and bulkheads we see today. Schexnailder's company was at the time the largest since landowner in the PIPOA and he was the most familiar with the permits so the job or renewing them fell to him. Schexnailder was in the process of renewing and extending the five year Corps permit when his company lost ownership of the PIPOA land and I cannot find a current PIPOA permit in the Corps of Engineer files. If/when it is renewed making progress on water flow through the PIPOA canals will be the chief tenet of that process.

So what's the holdup?

So after all those years of working to get a water exchange bridge why are we having these problems at the end of the process? The short answer is that there was a change of leadership when the new PIPOA board took office in March, 2023. Their first objection was that there was no plan nor agreement for removing the bulkhead that currently blocks the connection between old and new canals. The next objection was that there were no water flow studies regarding water speed and volume in the PIPOA canals once the canals were connected.

As you read this there have now been two water flow studies done by the developers at the Whitecap NPI site which have been presented in these pages in the recent editions, and a third done by the City of Corpus Christi which owns the bridges, with a fourth by a different consulting firm now eminent. The argument from the board is that these studies should have been done years ago and that might be right, but that horse is out of the barn. The question before us is what happens if the board continues seeking studies until they find one that says cutting the canals through is a danger to the bulkheads? What do we do then? My guess is litigate/delay.

The final say

While Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC. has been working to mitigate this standoff it isn't their fight; the permit for the work underway at Whitecap NPI, which they own, is being done under the original permit which in the beginning covered the entire Island, including the PIPOA canals until that permit was severed from the Lake Padre and now Whitecap NPI work by the order of the Corps of Engineers as I reported in the Moon a few weeks ago. The work at Lake Padre and at Whitecap NPI is being done under that old all-encompassing permit which is now held by the owners of Lake Padre and that is where the decision on cutting the canal under the bridge open now resides. The managing partner of that ownership group, as reported here last week, is steadfast in his refusal to open the canal from the Lake Padre side until there is agreement to cut through to the PIPOA canals and that is why the ribbon will be cut on a bridge without water flowing under it on December 8.

What I am not clear on is exactly what the goal of the PIPOA board is. Is the goal to stop the connecting of the canals which seems foolhardy, or is it to squeeze money for future canal repair from Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC. or their deep-pocket owners IBC Bank? I submit to you that will never happen and if that is the goal the PIPOA board is barking up a dead dog's posterior.

A stalemate

This is a problem that until the last few months did not exist as all parties were on the record in favor of connecting the canals old and a new. Unless something changes the bridge ribbon cutting will happen four days before the next PIPOA board meeting and six days before the end of the filing deadline for candidates to sign up to run for three seats on the board in the March election. It's possible this could all be resolved at the PIPOA December 12 board meeting, the board members have been adamant that they are not the holdup on connecting the canals and that they are in fact in favor of doing so but the facts show that the process snagged when the board sent a letter to Dia mond Beach officers threatening legal action after they said they would cut the canal through by the end of August and brought us to where we are today. If the board votes on December 12 to approve the connecting of the canals then this is all resolved. But if not it seems to me this is something that should be decided as a matter of policy by the PIPOA membership. What do Island property owners want the canal system to look like down the road? As of this writing the PIPOA reports that no

candidates, including the three incumbents, have filed for the election. If the issue has not been resolved by the December 14 filing deadline then let's make it part of the election cycle. I will gladly offer space in these pages for the incumbents and any challengers to make their case, whatever that turns out to be, and let's put it before a membership vote.

That's how this works.

December 1, 2023 Island Moon

Around cont. from A1

westbound will remain open as the outside lanes eastbound and westbound will be milled and overlaid first. The work will then progress to the inside lanes, which will be closed, while the outside lanes are open. This work, and the lane closures, will take place only on the bridge's main span not the entire causeway.

Once resurfacing on the bridge's travel lanes is complete, the crews will demobilize for the holidays and return in early 2024 to resurface the approaches to the bridge. A similar work sequence will be used that will include continuous lane closures. This will conclude work on top of the bridge that would affect traffic and it is expected to be completed by the end of February. Work may still be taking place under the bridge. The continuous, single-lane closures are a necessary part of the construction operation. The construction is focused on the main span of the bridge and includes repair to the substructure, superstructure, and railing. Also, existing armor joints and bearing pads are being replaced and, lastly, a new overlay travel surface will be applied to the bridge

Packery dredging

We've been reporting that the dredging of Packery Channel would commence in November and now it has begun. The slurry

the Michael J. Ellis Beach began spewing sand on the beach near the Wyndham Hotel on Monday and when done the project will widen the beach from south of Whitecap Boulevard to the Wyndham to about 300 feet (the exact width will depend on the amount of spoil material in the channel) which is beyond the 150-foot minimum required to allow for vehicles on the beach under state rules. One thousand-foot sections of the beach will be temporarily closed to allow for a line that will carry the sand but the line has been buried at the entrance to Beach Access Road 3A and there are steps over the line at all the pedestrian stairs so beach access is not blocked anywhere. The \$3.5 million project is the third major re-dredging of the Packery Channel since its opening in 2005 and will be complete by March, 2024 and will dredge the channel to 14 feet from the mouth of the jetties to the State Highway 361 Bridge. It's a little-known fact that Packery Channel was approved as a Beach Renourishment Project and not a channel project; the channel was a bi-product since it was the most convenient place to get sand.

line that distributes the dredge material on

That's all for now everybody, La Posada is upon us so say hello if you see us Around The Island.

Images from Dale Rankin and Jacob Augs.





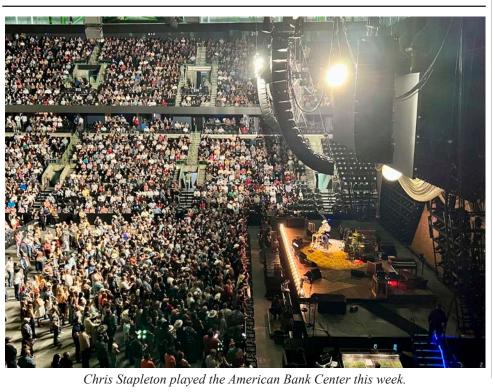
Dredge outflow in front of the seawall.



The seawall looking north.



operation.



Hisotry cont. from A1

exchange bridge by combining the \$1.2 million with the private developers \$900,000 providing \$2.1 million for the cost of the bridge. There were many complications. For one the developer didn't have to put the culverts in place until 2020 and there was no agreement to combine the funds prior to the vote. Further, there were no design plans for the bridge and cost estimate was at best a back of the envelope guess. Thirteen years went by during which not only the IUPAC came into being but the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) had been established under the 2004 Island Development Plan as an advisory group to the city council and its members began pushing for the bridge project to move forward. Find the money

In 2016 all the pieces were in place except

funding. The city had identified \$7.5 million in money left from old bond elections that had already been completed (the \$1.2 million from the 2004 bond package had grown to \$1.5 million), and ISAC voted to commit up to \$4 million in funds from the Island Tax Re-Investment Zone (TRZ) which was established in 2002 as part of the Packery Channel project to capture property tax on new construction inside the zone after that date. The fund was designed to maintain the Packery Jetties and to dredge the channel as needed, which was thought to be each year and required a \$4 million reserve fund for that purpose. As it turned out the channel has only had three dredge projects after the original construction. The TRZ boundaries include the area from Zahn Road to Whitecap and along SPID from Whitecap to Commodores, including the Schlitterbahn Waterpark. The amount of money the fund generates has varied from \$2 million to as much as \$6 million before the economic crunch in 2008. It has funded several Island projects and last year was extended through 2042 by which time it is estimated it will generate about \$14 million per year, all of

which remains on The Island.

Out to bids By early 2017 a final design on the proposed bridge was in place and it was unique to The Island. The design, now the bridge, called for three arches each forty feet wide spanning two cart and pedestrian paths bordering a forty-foot wide waterways with fourteen feet of clearance from the waterline to the bridge. Using arches rather than the standard Texas Department of Transportation design with I-beams was a nod to the fact that the bridge would be the centerpiece connecting \$500 million in development on the Lake Padre side to the then Schlitterbahn Waterpark on the west side through a 3200-foot long channel with retail, commercial, and residential space along the banks. The connection the bridge would provide would have the effect of turning Padre Island into one contiguous resort community and the canal would be the Island's signature icon with the bridge as the centerpiece. Parts of the project were already in place. In 2015 the canal connecting the bridge site to Lake Padre on the east side of the roadway was finished and bulkheads constructed in anticipation of the building of the bridge. A portion of the canal on the west side had been dug when the Schlitterbahn park was built to use the sand there as fill for the project but not bulkheaded. But the entire canal was not in existence and the cost of finishing it was put at \$3 million and on the

political side the city council under the direction of then Mayor Nelda Martinez was understandingly not going to build a "bridge to nowhere" and things were stalled. It was a chicken and egg problem. It was discovered that the \$3 million set aside in the Schlitterbahn park's construction budget for the canal and bulkheads had gone into the park itself and there was no money for the canal. By 2017 that hurdle had been cleared and it looked like the project would finally catch fire. *2017*

Things were looking up in early 2017 when

the project went out to bids and when they

were opened in April of that year it looked

like all the pieces were in place. The price came in at \$12.5 million, which was about \$1 million more than the funds available but a reachable number and it looked like construction was just around the corner. The only holdup was a signed commitment by the property owners on the west side of the road that they would in fact build the canal, which they said they were in favor of doing and which would create between \$15 and \$18 million in added property value along its banks by creating new waterfront property. They just had to find \$3 million. Then disaster struck. As the bid remained open through June of 2018 with construction pending on the bridge and ongoing discussion for canal construction the Schlitterbahn Waterpark and the land between it, SPID, and Whitecap were the subject of bankruptcy proceedings. Everything came to a halt as the future ownership of the 70 acres west of SPID where the canal would go hung in the balance. As that process stretched on through 2018 the window on the bid package closed and once again in June 2018 the project went idle, albeit with \$11.5 million in funding still available and the design in place. When the new landowners came in, Axys Capital and International Bank of Commerce, they recognized the financial sense

One last hurdle

of the bridge project and to move it along in April 2019 the owners and the Corpus

Christi City Council approved a Developer

Agreement that would create a Gordian

would protect the private owners from

city from building a bridge to nowhere.

Knot of interlocking responsibilities that

building a canal without a bridge, and the

Then in 2018 bids on a second round of bidding were opened with local Hass Anderson Construction, Ltd. coming in as the low bidder for the second time, this time at \$13.9 million leaving a \$2.4 million gap between the money required and the money available, a gap eventually filled with money from the Island TIRZ. But there was one last hurdle.

The Development Agreement that had been worked out between the city and the private land owners called for the city to begin work on the bridge when the canals leading to it were "substantially complete." The new owners of the land on the west side, then Axys Capital now Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC., had already begun work on the new canal there and were in the process of putting in the bulkheads. Then District 4 City Councilman Greg Smith brought City Manager Peter Zanoni to the site and pointing at the new canal said, "That is substantially complete" and a few months later construction of the bridge now known as the Don Patricio Bridge began.





A6 Island Moon December 1, 2023

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Quarter

By Dotson Lewis



Dotson's Note: In 1956, Unitas joined the Baltimore Colts of the NFL under legendary coach Weeb Ewbank, after being asked at the last minute to join Bloomfield Rams lineman Jim Deglau, a Croatian steelworker with a life much like Unitas, at the latter's scheduled Colts tryout. The pair borrowed money from friends to pay for the gas to make the trip. Deglau later told a reporter after Unitas's death, "[His] uncle told him not to come. [He] was worried that if he came down and the Colts passed on him, it would look bad (to other NFL teams)." The Colts signed Unitas, much to the chagrin of the Cleveland Browns, who had hoped to claim the former Steeler quarterback. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Gil Brandt, Jim Deglau, and Wikipedia for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.



Unitas-Ewbank-Berry

Unitas made his NFL debut with an inauspicious "mop-up" appearance against Detroit, going 0–2 with one interception. Two weeks later, starting quarterback George Shaw suffered a broken leg against the Chicago Bears. In his first serious action, Unitas's initial pass was intercepted and returned for a touchdown. Then he botched a hand-off on his next play, resulting in a fumble recovered by the Bears. Unitas rebounded quickly from that 58–27 loss, leading the Colts to an upset of Green Bay and their first win over Cleveland. He threw nine touchdown passes that year, including one in the season finale that started his record 47-game streak. His 55.6-percent completion mark was a rookie

In 1957, his first season as the Colts full-time starter at quarterback, Unitas finished first in the NFL in passing yards (2,550) and touchdown passes (24) as he helped lead the Colts to a 7–5 record, the first winning record in franchise history. At season's end, Unitas received the Jim Thorpe Trophy as the NFL's Most Valuable Player by the Newspaper Enterprise Association (NEA).

Unitas continued his prowess in 1958 passing for 2,007 yards and 19 touchdowns as the Colts won the Western Conference title. The Colts won the NFL championship under his leadership on December 28, 1958, by defeating the New York Giants 23–17 in sudden death overtime on a touchdown by fullback Alan Ameche. It was the first overtime game in NFL history, and is often referred to as the "greatest game ever played". The game, nationally televised by NBC, has been credited for sparking the rise in popularity of professional football during the 1960s.

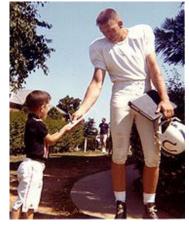
In 1959, Unitas was named the NFL's MVP by the Associated Press (AP) for the first time, as well as United Press International's player of the year, after leading the NFL in passing yards (2,899), touchdown passes (32), and completions (193). He then led the Colts to a repeat championship, sparking a fourth quarter comeback to beat the Giants again 31–16 in the title game

With the Colts fresh off back-to-back championships, Unitas was lauded by rookie head coach of the Green Bay Packers, Vince Lombardi, who said of the 26-year-old signal caller: "Without him, they're just ordinary. With him, they're great. He's the best quarterback I've ever seen."

As the 1960s began, the Colts' fortunes (and win totals) declined. Injuries to key players such as Alan Ameche, Raymond

Johnny Unitas-NFL Quarterback Part 2

Berry, and Lenny Moore were a contributing factor. Unitas's streak of 47 straight games with at least one touchdown pass ended against the Los Angeles Rams in week 11 of the 1960 season. In spite of this, he topped the 3,000-yard passing mark for the first time and led the league in touchdown passes for the fourth consecutive season.

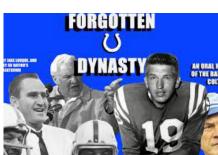


Unitas Signing Autograph In 1964

After three middle-of-the-pack seasons, Colts owner Carroll Rosenbloom fired Weeb Ewbank and replaced him with Don Shula, who at the time was the youngest head coach in NFL history (33 years of age when he was hired). The Colts finished 8–6 in Shula's first season at the helm, good enough for only third place in the NFL's Western Conference, but they did end the season on a strong note by winning their final three games. The season was very successful for Unitas personally, as he led the NFL in passing yards with a career-best total of 3,481 and also led in completions with 237.

In the 1964 season the Colts returned to the top of the Western Conference. After dropping their season opener to the Minnesota Vikings, the Colts ran off 10 straight victories to finish with a 12–2 record. The season was one of Unitas's best as he finished with 2,824 yards passing, a league-best 9.26 yards per pass attempt, 19 touchdown passes and only 6 interceptions. He was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player by the AP and UPI for a second time. However, the season ended on a disappointing note for the Colts, as they were upset by the Cleveland Browns in the 1964 NFL Championship

Game, losing 27–0. Unitas resumed his torrid passing in 1965, throwing for 2,530 yards, 23 touchdowns and finishing with a league-high and career-best 97.1 passer rating. But he was lost for the balance of the season due to a knee injury in a week 12 loss to the Bears. Back-up quarterback Gary Cuozzo also suffered a season-ending injury the following week, and running back Tom Matte filled in as the emergency quarterback for the regular season finale and in a playoff loss to the Packers.



The Colts and Packers finished in a tie for first place in the Western Conference, and a one-game playoff was played in Green Bay to decide who would be the conference representative in the 1965 NFL Championship Game. The Colts lost in overtime 13–10 due in large part to a game-tying field goal by Don Chandler that many say was incorrectly ruled good.

Dotson's Other Note: Unitas, healthy once more, threw for 2,748 yards and 22 touchdowns in 1966 in a return to Pro Bowl form. However, he posted a league-high 24 interceptions.

TO BE CONTINUED

Dotson's Other Note: After his collegiate career, the Pittsburgh Steelers of the NFL drafted Unitas in the ninth round. However, he was released before the season began as the odd man out among four quarterbacks trying to fill three spots. Steelers> head coach Walt Kiesling had made up his mind about Unitas; he thought he was not smart enough to quarterback an NFL team, and he was not given any snaps in practice with the Steelers. Among those edging out Unitas was Ted Marchibroda, future longtime NFL head coach. Out of pro football, Unitas—by this time married—worked in construction in Pittsburgh to support his family. On the weekends, he played quarterback, safety and punter on a local semi-professional team called the Bloomfield Rams for \$6 a game.



The Blood Picture

By Andy Purvis

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross once said, "Learn to get in touch with the silence within your self, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences, all events are blessings given to us to learn from." He was a quiet guy, but special: a game changer extraordinaire. He had reached his inner peace and was okay with who he had become. He was once a tall, pencil thin, redheaded kid with a slingshot right arm; he could be as awkward as Jimmy Stewart. He was small town, as country as corn shucks and always talked football, always. He had a face that was hard to forget and looked as though he never had a square meal in his life. Some said he was so skinny he could sleep in the barrel of a 12-gauge shotgun. He owned high cheek bones, deep-set blue eyes and was baldheaded most of his life. Even at an early age, he looked older than a pair of Chuck Taylor Converse All-Stars. But, you don't become a legend without a fight. He was in for the fight of his life. He wore a Giant blue helmet with a red

stripe down the center. His facemask was grey and his jersey was white, with red #14. His pants were blue-grey with red socks pulled up over his calves. In the 1960's, that's what a football player looked like to me.

The black and white photo taken of him on Sunday, September 20, 1964, has over the years become ingrained in the very minds of every fan of the world of professional football. Morris Berman of the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* snapped this iconic image at old Pitt Stadium. Berman named the photo, "Fallen Giant." This picture would change the way photographers looked at sports, and it emphasized the power of capturing a moment of reaction from the players themselves. In this photo the quarterback now rested on his knees, in the dirt and grass of his own end zone. He had been knocked down and bloodied by Pittsburgh Steelers' defensive end, "Big Bad John" Baker, who stood 6' 7" tall and weighed 280 pounds. Baker's teammates kidded that John was so big he had his own zip code. This QB would suffer a concussion and a cracked sternum on this play. His helmet is missing, head down, his shoulders slumping, all while looking exhausted, in pain, broken and discouraged beyond explanation. Even his swollen hands screamed disbelief as they lay on top of his thigh pads. He had thrown an interception while being leveled by Baker. The ball landed in the arms of Steelers' defensive tackle, Chuck Hinton, and was returned for an eight-yard touchdown. The New York Football Giants had lost another game. Pittsburgh would beat New York that day, 27-24.

But it's his bald, bloodied head that draws your attention in this photo. You see, there are two streams of blood visible, one running from his forehead into his left eye, while the other sneaks its way down in front of his left ear. The "Blood Picture," he called it, the one picture of him that everybody wanted autographed. It's true, I have one myself. This photo was taken during his seventeenth and final season. "I hate this picture," he once said. Most of us never admit we are too old until it's too late. He was 37 years old but looked 50. A copy of this photo hangs in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Eventually, he used this picture on the back cover of his 2009 autobiogra-



phy, entitled Nothing Comes Easy: My Life in Football: Y.A. Tittle. The Giants finished their season in last place with a dismal 2-10-2 record. Y.A. Tittle retired. Interestingly, "Big Bad John" Baker lived close to the neighborhood where I grew up, located in Wake County, in the city of Raleigh, North Carolina. Baker attended Ligon High School and then North Carolina Central University. He was drafted in 1958 by the Los Angeles Rams. My dad introduced me to John Baker in the off-season, as Baker would return to Raleigh and shop at my dad's convenience store, known as Gordon's Market on Six Forks Road. In 1978, long after his retirement, Baker would be elected the first African-American Sheriff of Wake County, North Carolina; and he served for 25 years. Baker used this photo as a campaign tool. It said if you break the law here's what John Baker will do to you. John Baker died on Halloween Night, October 31, 2007, which was appropriate, because the man was simply scary. Baker was 72 years of age. In 1972, Baker had appropriately been elected to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Born October 24, 1926, in a small town in Texas, with a Biblical name right out of the Old Testament, Yelberton Abraham Tittle would make the #14 a famous number in New York City. As a kid, Tittle would change his name to Y.A. It just seemed simpler to say, and he was embarrassed to say his full name. "I've got the worst name in the world," he once said in an interview. Y.A. grew up in the town of Marshall, just a long post pattern from the Louisiana state line. In 1936, at the age of ten, he had wanted to be like quarterback, Sammy Baugh. He would lead the Marshall High School Mavericks at quarterback, while wearing a long-sleeved jersey and a leather helmet. Y.A. was a bit headstrong and was once benched because he refused to run the plays called by his head coach. Y.A. would grow to be 6' tall and weigh 192 pounds, and he was recruited by Louisiana State University (LSU). Tittle accepted their offer and headed to Baton Rouge to play for the Tigers. He also liked being close to his older brother, Frank, who attended Tulane. "Frank was my hero," said Y.A. In 1947, as a junior, Tittle, was named the MVP of the Cotton Bowl, which was played in an

zero."
Y.A. Tittle quarterbacked the Giants to three consecutive losses in the championship games yet he was still inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1971, without ever winning a post-season game.

ice storm against the University of Arkan-

sas. The game ended in a scoreless tie. "It

was cold," said Tittle, "Five degrees below

Andy Purvis www.purvisbooks.com



December 1, 2023 Island Moon

Island Outdoors



On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Olivia with a nice trout - fishing with the family on Thanksgiving day

One of the committees I sit on and represent tag-teamed the council and staff regarding CCA for is the Texas Marine Cold Water Response Collaborative (TCRC). This is a group of state and federal entities, environmental and industrial and academic organizations seeking collaborative solutions to mitigate the impact of cold-water events on the Texas coastal marine life including fisheries and sea turtles. This collaboration is lead by our old buddy Dr. Philippe Tissot and includes peers from a smattering of agencies including Alex and Perry from the TPWD, John from the NWS, Andrew from the USACE, Dr. Donna Shaver from the NPS, and representatives of the Coast Guard and the Gulf Coast Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA - "barge operators"). The goal is to ameliorate impacts to our turtles and fish.

Dr. Tissot's group is using data and information from the National Weather Service and modeling using artificial intelligence (AI). Now, I'm not talking about ChatopenAI doing your homework or writing dirty limericks. They use real time observations, weather prediction model outputs, and then use AI to predict water temperatures out to five days beforehand. While this model is limited by the weather models, it has been very accurate over the past few years determining when water temps will fall below certain thresholds (46 degrees for turtles and 40 degrees for fisheries).

What does this do? When the model sees a potential stunning advisory five days out, then the team jumps into action. Dr. Tissot will send out emails and have a zoom call with the team to let the group know that we need to get the respective teams on alert. This includes stopping dredging operations (i.e. Packery), cessation of barge traffic from our partners with the barge operators, closing of thermal refuge waters by TPWD (for fisheries), and of course Dr. Donna Shaver getting the cold turtle stunning response up and running. This is an interactive model that you can keep in touch with at https://cbigrid.tamucc.edu/tpw/ that will give you 5 days out. I know a lot of my fishing buddies will be very interested in this new tool to predict when TPWD will shut down areas to fishing.

Watershore Beach and Advisory Committee

Philip from the Watershore Beach and Advisory Committee (WBAC) met me down at city council the other day and we

the pay for lifeguards. You loyal readers know that at the last ISAC we passed a recommendation to city council to support the increase because safety is paramount. I mean, who is going to argue against saving people from drowning? I see it along the same lines as the police and fire fighters; we need to make sure that they are funded, and to the same level as our adjacent communities. Plus, the city needs to get on that sooner than later, because it takes a month or longer to advertise, then interview folks, and then on-board them. It will be Spring Break if they start now.

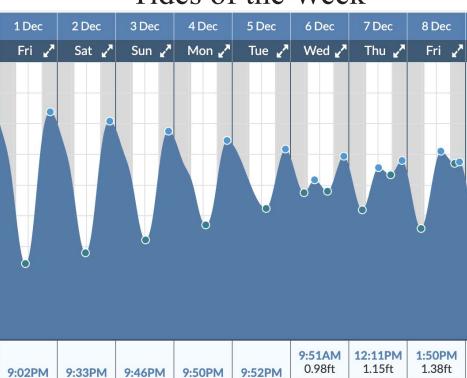
Packery dredging and anti-social media

I find it interesting to see the reactions from the community regarding the dredging of Packery Channel, and the outfall pipe into the gulf. For many, this is the first time they've seen a hydraulic dredge in action up close, which is something a lot of folks never get to witness. Yes, the material in the bottom of the channel has been tested and tested, there's nothing toxic. Noxious if you're standing next to it, maybe, but not toxic. Yes, there is a plume of fine sediments headed south, but that is to be expected. Those nutrients will feed the little worms in the sand that birds like to eat. It's just fulfilling a normal cycle; there's nothing nefarious going on. The people that are the most alarmed evidently weren't here back in 2012 for the last dredging, which is actually required of the city by the Texas General Land Office. Happens with every new batch of Islanders, just like the first shots of duck season. Welcome to the Island.

ISAC meeting

We will not be holding ISAC next week but will meet the week after on December 11th (yes, that's a Monday). This is due to the proliferation of city council meetings and scheduling at the end of the year. We should have some layouts from Commodores Park to look at, and hopefully Island liaison Roger can wrangle the consultant for the Mobility plan to the meeting to give us an update. Thanks again to Denise Hawkins for opening the Seashore MSA. It's that time of year for Christmas parties and fun times. La Posada is sneaking up on us quickly, so get your plans together. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I'll see you next week On the Rocks.

Tides of the Week



9:02PM	9:33PM	9:46PM	9:50PM	9:52PM	9:51AM 0.98ft	12:11PM 1.15ft	1:50PM 1.38ft
1.94ft	1.8ft	1.67ft	1.54ft	1.41ft	9:54PM 1.31ft	9:52PM 1.25ft	9:31PM 1.21ft
10:51AM	11:34AM	12:18PM	1:04PM	1:56PM	5:32AM 0.79ft	5:31AM 0.56ft	5:42AM 0.3ft
-0.2ft	-0.03ft	0.13ft	0.36ft	0.59ft	3:11PM 0.82ft	5:11PM 1.05ft	7:31PM 1.21ft
7:02AM	7:02AM	7:03AM	7:04AM	7:04AM	7:05AM	7:06AM	7:06AM
5:33PM	5:33PM	5:33PM	5:33PM	5:33PM	5:33PM	5:34PM	5:34PM
			•				
10:59AM	11:38AM	12:12PM	12:43PM	1:11PM	1:38PM	2:05PM	2:34PM
9:31PM	10:28PM	11:23PM		00:16AM	1:08AM	2:00AM	2:53AM



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah Farah's Fishing Adventures



George holds a BOATLOAD of trout we caught this week on soft plastics. Four man limit on a cloudy north wind day. Farah

The grey skies and stiff north wind had doubts creeping into my head as dawn struck the Laguna Madre. This time of year can be tricky with weather variables colliding from all different directions. Many of our gamefish species are feeding hard during lunar feeding times and sometimes going dormant for a while with the drop in temperatures as their bodies and metabolisms keep them from feeding multiple times a day. The bulls swarming the surface as I pulled up to the deep flats on-site of the JFK eased my mind. My first cast I felt a thump as my soft plastic skipped across the floor of the bay. As our time neared the lunar high we had multiple strikes on each cast. In just four drifts our team on the boat landed 70 trout! A frenzy, with mostly smaller fish at or just below the minimum size. A short lull soon overcame us for an hour then as expected the bigger trout started to feed. In an hour we landed the rest of our limit and all of the larger fish of the day. When we hit the cleaning table the stomachs were full of large pin perch, dog fish, shrimp, and minnows. Watching these times before you head out with poles in hand will give us all confidence and bring us to fish at the right times.

A plastic in the winter...

A light hand is needed to gently swim a soft plastic in the winter. Hard and fast actions of the rod dance lures too quickly and in an unnatural and erratic pattern. Softly sweep your rod strokes and roll the bait through the water making a lifelike presentation. I find big differences in stiff rod actions compared to limber fishing rod

actions all the time. A stiff rod delivers on point hook sets, but hard fast action of the lure. Lighten up your rod action and give a natural flow to the movements of your lure. Start off on the bottom with a 1/4oz jig head then lighten it up to 1/8th when fish become

active and aggressive. Best combination of lures

The best combinations of lures I've seen this week have been the DOA 3" CAL SHAD in BLOODSHAD COLOR, with a DOA White 1/4oz short shanked jig head. The dark bait and bright head just drives them crazy. The smaller bait will get strikes all day long. When the bite strengthens I like to lighten up my jig head and start using bigger baits. The long pause I can produce with a larger soft plastic and a light jig head brings the bigger trout in for an attack. The sound alone of the lighter jig head hitting the surface sounds like a real baitfish landing from a escaping attack.

The next few weeks we will all be flooded with Christmas stress and cheer. Take some time to really enjoy the season in the water and some of the best fishing of the year. Make Christmas easy for that loved one or family that has everything except the gift of knowledge and share a fishing tip under the tree. I teach fishing, build anglers, and have fun. The calendar is open a few days each week in Dec and January so if you see please my weather on the way pick up the phone and let's share a great day on the water!

FOLLOW ALL OF OUR FISHING IN FACEBOOK AT JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING 361-442-8145



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Nature Notes

Nature cont. from A1

After the breeding season ends, and the adult birds are done teaching the youngsters where to find food and the weather changes with more rain and eventually cooler days. Some of the fall blooming and fruiting plants are producing, grasses are seeding, and birds tend to move back to the wild areas and away from yards for a while. Also, birds have different dietary needs during different times of the year. Often once winter sets in, at least some of the birds return to feed at feeders. Or a new set of wintering birds have moved down from the north and are now using your yard. Its an annual cycle.

Of course, there can be additional reasons, especially if it happens during another time of year when that natural cycle isn't present. Many birds might move out of your area if there is prolonged drought, floods, storms, exceptional heat and cold waves, or a similar unusual weather condition. They may shift out of the entire region if its severe. The sever winter freezes we had a few years ago hit our bird populations very hard, and they are still bouncing back, if they never will reach pre-freeze numbers.

At times it could be due to a predator. Maybe a hawk, or a cat has moved into the area. If it's a hawk, it's probably just a temporary thing, or maybe for a few minutes here and there. If it's a cat it could go on for a long time, until the cat moves on or is removed.

Changes in the "neighborhood" can also cause birds to move on. If areas around that had trees or were more natural have been cleared, new subdivisions with less cover have been built, or some other change in the landscape around you, can have big effects on birds that were coming to your

Of course, the overall decline of birds has been ongoing. Year after year bird populations have been going down. As years have gone by, that decrease seems to be speeding up. Bird numbers do fluctuate for natural reasons, and that is most likely the explanation for changes you see in your yard from month to month. But it's also true that many populations of bird species have been declining gradually but consistently for many years. In September 2019, a comprehensive study of 529 bird species in the U.S. and Canada found a net loss of 2.9 billion breeding birds, or 29% of the overall population, since 1970. The research was published in the journal Science by a team of researchers led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. And our common birds have suffered the greatest losses. It's a grim picture!

As winter gets closer here you should see more bird returning to feeders and your yard. I know we are seeing just that at GCBO and in our own yards. Enjoy them, and get involved to find ways to help pro-



City Announces Applications Available for Sister City Student Exchange Program

High School Students Have an Opportunity to Travel Abroad This Summer

The Corpus Christi Sister City Committee invites all Corpus Christi high school sophomores and juniors to apply for a chance to travel abroad this summer to one of Corpus Christi's Sister Cities, Agen, France, and Yokosuka, Japan.

The Student Exchange Program is an opportunity awarded to Corpus Christi high school sophomores and juniors who have outstanding academic and leadership performance, a good understanding of what it means to be an ambassador for Corpus Christi, and a keen interest in learning about the world outside of the United States. The selection process includes a formal application and an interview with the Sister City

"The City of Corpus Christi is proud to provide this enriching cultural experience to our youth, expanding their future interests," Mayor Paulette Guajardo said. "As young ambassadors of our beautiful coastal city, they will have opportunities to foster goodwill with our partnering cities at an international level."

The selected high school students will spend two weeks in one of our Sister Cities over the summer with a host student and family. At the end of their stay, they will return with their host student to spend another two educational and fun-filled weeks in Corpus Christi.

For more information and to receive an application, visit https://www.cctexas.com/ studentexchange. The application deadline is Friday, December 15, 2023. Limited scholarships to help defray travel costs are

The Sister City Committee is a City Council-appointed Commission. The Sister City Committee liaison is Wendy Herman, with the Corpus Christi Intergovernmental Relations Department. She can be reached at CorpusChristiSisterCity@cctexas.com or 361-826-3179.

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Going Native

How do Mangroves survive a hard freeze?

By Ed Proffitt

Rolling into Winter 2023 leaves us all with one burning question --- how do those mangroves come through that hard freeze? Mangroves, I'm sure you'll recall from my column back in September, are salt tolerant tropical trees that inhabit the same intertidal, low-wave-energy habitat that salt marsh plants do in much of Texas. Although a few scattered individuals of other species occur in Texas, nearly all of our mangroves are the black mangrove Avicennia germinans (L) L. An aside about species names and taxonomy so you can all impress your friends at New Year's parties. The L stands for Carolus Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist who in the 1700's developed the binomial system of nomenclature (two names, genus [Avicennia] and species [germinans]) that we still use today. I'm sure you're wondering why the L occurs twice (L) and L. Well, it's mostly like this. When you name a species you get to have your name associated with it. Linnaeus named so many that we just usually use an "L" and his name is understood. So, he first named A. germinans and so it had a L tacked on to the end. And, the other (L) you ask? Ah, an interesting point that. Another taxonomist came along and said Linnaeus was wrong and changed the name! However, later a different (apparently smarter) taxonomist took a look and decided that Linnaeus had been right and so changed it back. Thus, the L indicates that Linnaeus first named it and the (L) indicates that someone had to change it back to the correct name. I can nearly guarantee that few of your friends at parties are going to know that --- go

Now, where was I? I get hung up in the botany sometimes. Ah yes, mangroves, salt marshes, freezes --- oh my. Global warming is contributing to what we very cool ecologists call "tropicalization" or the colonization of temperate latitudes by tropical species. Sometimes this causes a change in ecosystem state or a regime shift. For example, my lab studies woody mangroves, that grow to be 1.5 to 3+ m tall here, colonizing local salt marshes dominated by herbaceous plants that are generally much smaller. Most salt marsh plants are not particularly shade tolerant, and mangrove can make quite a dense canopy that blocks most light. The upshot is that in parts of the Gulf of Mexico, mangroves (especially Avicennia since it's very cold tolerant for a mangrove) are beginning to replace salt marsh. I'm not going to rehash if that's good or bad,

you can refer back to my September column for that discussion. On the other hand, any "disturbance" like a hard "killing" freeze can remove or substantially reduce mangrove canopy and allow marsh plants to recover.

Long story short (or, well, a bit shorter at least) the Feb. 2021 freeze (winter storm Uri) that reached -6.4 C at our experimental plots on Ward Island killed many mangroves locally and further north. In Corpus Christi Bay area, all "survivors" experienced "top kill", or death of above ground stems and leaves and resprouted from the base. Survival was patchy around the bay. In some locations, like Ward Island, up to 38% resprouted, mainly mid-size plants as nearly all larger plants and seedlings/saplings died. In other locales around the bay there was much less (maybe 10% mangrove survival). So, since 2021 it's been a story of regrowth (first year) and reproduction (second year) to reestablish the mangrove population. This has been contrasted with salt marsh plants recovering via clonal growth and seed/seedlings to reclaim dominance in some places. Some places neither marsh nor mangrove have yet recolonized and those sites are subject to higher erosion rates! Currently, there's "woody debris" accumulating on the ground as the dead aboveground stems finally begin to break up and fall. This woody debris is likely important to use by fauna and in nutrient cycling and is another aspect of our research. No,

don't worry, I'm not going to detail that! In 2018, there was a -3.5 C freeze (winter storm Inga) locally that had minimal effects on mangroves. Before that, you had to go back to 1989 to find a "mangrove-killing freeze event." But, now, we've just had another hard freeze. We put out hobo temperature loggers and recorded about -4.7 C, colder than 2018 but not as cold as 2021. Our initial observations suggest that there's been some leaf damage, but we've not seen any widespread mangrove mortality. So, that small difference between -6.4 and -4.7C seems important for the ecology of the intertidal wetland community. We, and our dedicated students, are assessing seedling recruitment to see if the youngest of mangroves didn't fare as well as the more mature plants. That could be important for the growth of the mangrove popu-

So, that's the mangrove-freeze story. Hey....wake up! Enjoy New Years and keep Going Native.

Flooding cont. from A1



A new Island stem wall. had never experienced flooding as the elevation of lots in new neighboring houses was raised to meet the new requirements sending rainwater onto the adjacent lots. Currently the city Unified Development Code calls for any new homes to provide an engineer-stamped plan for a drainage to prevent water from running onto adjacent lots before receiving a building permit. The city rules call for runoff from Island lots to sheet drain either to the street for dry lots, or into the adjoining canal for canal lots. However city officials have routinely told members of the ISAC, a fourteen-member advisory committee appointed by the Corpus Christi City Council, that staffing issues make enforcement of the drainage rules nearly impossible leaving the only option for homeowners with flooded lots being to file suit against their neighbors. The report presented to the ISAC board at

its November meeting by members of the subcommittee, ISAC board members Bob Corbett (Chairman), Marvin Jones, Roy Coons, and Mike Pittman, recommends a change to the city Unified Development Code that would change the way lots under new homes handle drainage.

Under building methods adopted after implementation of the new FEMA flood map the common practice was to simply use sand to raise the elevation of the entire lot. With a setback distance of five feet between houses this left an angle of descent between the new, higher lot and older lot of 30 to 40 degrees which was the root cause

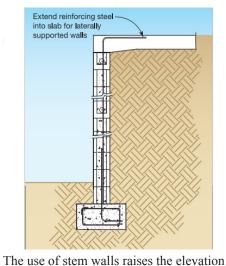
of the flooding. Recommendations

The study recommends the following: The City should adopt a building standard that prohibits a slope between houses of no more than 8 degrees.

The City should implement inspections during the construction of infill houses to enforce the 8-degree rule.

The City should increase inspection of the engineered drainage plan to assure the plan is being followed.

The below diagram illustrates a stem wall foundation which has the ability to reduce the sloop to 8 degrees or less.



of the house without creating additional elevated impermeable ground cover thus reducing runoff to the amount of water which falls on its roof and French drains can then be used to move the water either to the street or the canal.

The ISAC board recommended that the study and the solution be forwarded to the Corpus Christi City Council to be included in revisions to the UDC in 2024.



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Business Briefs By Mary Craft mkay512@aol.com

The Pearl Oyster Bar has a new and expanded menu that started this week. Some of the added items are smoked oyster chowder soup, lobster roll, oyster Rockefeller, Texas Wagyu meatloaf, shrimp and lobster bucatini (thicker spaghetti pasta) and smoked chocolate pot de creme with homemade banana ice cream. All pints of beer are \$3 all day Monday - Friday and bottles/cans \$2.50 until 5 pm. Islanders will get 10% off their total tab starting December 1st until the end of February. The reastaurant is located next door to Snoopy's.



Joker & Jester Comedy Tour will perform at Texas Red's Riviera in Port A on Sunday, December 19th 7 pm. Comedians Jake Daniels and Dan Ellison are in the Comedy Tour movie currently available to rent on Amazon prime video. The show lasts about 90 minutes to two hours and admission is free so just stop in.



Ray Wylie Hubbard will perform at the Third Coast Theater in Port A on January 19th and 20th. Get your tickets early for this just announced show. Tickets would make for a nice



My Coastal Home End of Season Clearance sale will be Friday, December 1st - 3rd at the Padre Island store only. There will be up to 75% off furniture, decor and more.

CC Symphony 2023-2024 Concert series Home for the Holidays will be on Saturday, December 9th 7:30 pm at TAMU-CC Performing Arts

Padre Island Yacht Club Market Days will be held on March 23rd and 24th. They are looking for vendors for the 10'x10' booths which are \$50 for the two day event. For food trucks the cost is \$100 for both days. Go to piyc.org and find info in calendar tab.



Salty K Laundromat located on the Island has a wash/dry/fold service. They pick up and deliver or drop off. It is \$1.50 per lb. If you would like to do the cleaning yourself they have DexterPay where you use the app to pay and it even notifies you when your wash or dry cycle is done so you can run an errand. It is open 6 am - 11 pm daily.

Power Washing by Islandscape Maintenance for houses, driveways, fences, decks and sidewalks. Call 949-2773 to schedule a free

Hooters on SPID will be reopening. It temporarily closed about two years ago.

Christmas Activities

Padre Island Market - Holiday Market will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 3rd 1 - 5 pm. Mermaid Alva will be there for photo ops with a Christmas mermaid, a kids craft corner is planned, plus many vendors.

Santa's Beach Party will be at the Keller Williams parking lot on Sunday, December 3rd 2 - 5 pm. It will feature pictures with Santa, bounce house, face painting, Christmas corn hole, hot dogs, peppermint cocoa and more. Bring an unwrapped toy or two. They are located at 15105

A Christmas Party with Matt Hole & the Hot **Rod Gang** will be at The Annex downtown on Friday, December 1st 7 pm. There will be drink specials, Hurb's Burgers and more. The Annex is a warehouse that was turned into a bar/lounge at 312 S. Chaparral Street last April.



The Golf Cart Christmas Parade will begin at the Seashore Learning Center at 5 pm Sunday, December 3rd. Listen for the fire engine siren and get the kids outside to collect candy. Santa and his float will do three large stops to speak with children and collect Toys for Tots. These stops will be at Billish Park, the PI Yacht Club and Padre Island Baptist Church.

Mistletoe Makers Market will be held at the Nueces Brewing and Barbecuing on Saturday, December 2nd 11:30 am - 5 pm. They are located downtown at 419 Born Street



South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center has Holly Days every weekend until December 23rd with hay rides, photos with Santa, petting zoo, photos with animals, s'mores & cocoa and more. The facility is located at 8545 S. Staples and is dog friendly.

Cirque Dreams Holidaze will be at Selena Auditorium on Sunday, December 3rd 6 pm. Get 25% off tickets with code CYBER25.

Cabana Pantry is offering a Gingerbread House Decorating kids class on Sunday, December 4th at noon for \$20. Go to their web site or stop by at their shop next to Isles Mail & More to reserve a seat at the table.

The Enchanted Forest Christmas Tree Silent Auction for Timon's Ministries will be held at Doc's Waterline on Thursday, November 30th 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 at the door or \$25 in

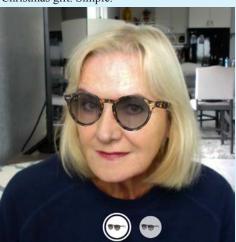
advance. Drink vouchers and finger food will be provided.

Holiday Lights Nightly Shows will begin December 2nd 6 - 10 pm at the tree in Santa in the Park located in Roberts Point Park in Port A.

La Posada Kick-off Party will be held at Hardknocks on Friday, December 1st. Silent Auction starts at 6 pm and live auction follows. The Groove will provide the entertainment. Don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy especially for the older kids.

Random Stuff

Sunglass Hut website has a great way to try on glasses online. This photo is a screenshot from my desktop computer of me trying on RayBan sunglasses. I did not expect it to look so much like I am really wearing the glasses. I sent the link for the sunglasses I liked to my son for my Christmas gift. Simple.



Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson said in a recent interview "Not only my first ever pro wrestling match, but first time I ever wrestled in front of people. There were about 15,000 people in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1996 when I was 24."



My new Bronco Sport has the auto start/stop feature that I always turned off because when I stopped it felt like the car died. I read up on the feature and it is supposed to save gas. So I started using it and sure enough my car went from 23.8 mpg to 24.2. I have come to enjoy the quietness and the better music sound when I'm stopped.



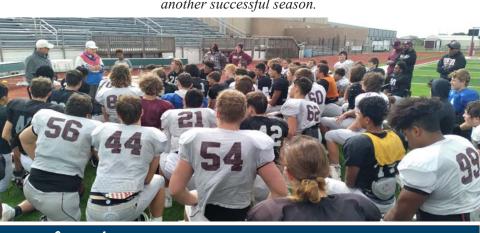


Congratulations to the Flour Bluff Hornets Football Team

The Flour Bluff Hornets ended their season this week with a 28-49 loss in the third round of the playoffs to Liberty Hill High.

Flour Bluff Coach Chris Steinbruck invited Moon columnist and long-time football official Dotson Lewis to the team's practice last week where he spoke to the team and was given a helmet signed by the players. Lewis and Coach Steinbruck, who is also the Interim Superintendent, are working to develop a program at Flour Bluff schools to train students as referees for high school sports.

Congratulations to Coach Steinbruck and the Flour Bluff football Hornets for another successful season.



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13809 Laffite \$369,900 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. Granite countertops, appliances nicely updated. Rock front, some turf in back. Charlie 361-443-2499



15406 Cuttysark St. Canal lot-100+ feet of bulkhead—9258 sq. ft. Ouick access to the main channel & water exchange bridge. \$299,900 **Dorothy Ernst** 361-563-8486



Puente Vista #230 Fingertip location with views for days! Fully updated second floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath with 1,151 sq. ft. \$399,900. Call Charlie 361-443-2499.



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



14911 Village Beach Dr. gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. \$450,000. Call Kim Mogford at 361-434-8522.



14010 Eaglesnest Bay 3/2.5/2 + bonus/flex room at 2,142 sq.ft. Open plan, new roof & HVAC in 2017. All new hurricane windows, 3M water treatment system. Large backyard w/room for a pool. **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



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



13965 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,502 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$585,000.** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie** Knoll 361-443-2499.



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



13969 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,540 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$589,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie** Knoll 361-443-2499.



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fully updated, located less than a mile from the beach. **\$275,000**.

Kim Mogford 361-434-8522.



14921 Windward Dr #114 Very nice 2/2 short term rental unit, fully furnished across the street from the beach. This one shouldn't last long. Call Will Flaherty with questions. **\$290,000.** 361-944-0995.





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





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15230 Capstan \$589,900

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13906 Mingo Cay #6 2/2 waterfront complex

> 15357 Yardarm 3/2.5/2 waterfront \$2,600 /month

\$1,350 /month







December 1, 2023 Island Moon

Be part of the La Posada boat parade by booking your seats on the "Packery Queen" for either Friday December 8th or Saturday December 9th, and 50% of the proceeds go to Toys for Tots! Call 361-252-1510.





PadreBoatTours.com

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Drew and Leora Pementel took the Moon to



Lori Horstmann went space traveling and took the Moon along...or maybe just

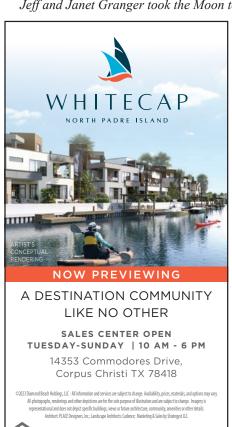


Jeff and Janet Granger took the Moon to Maui to celebrate their 20th anniversary.



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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

A few years ago, Barbara and I were able to visit Scotland with our children. My father's parents emigrated to Chicago from Scotland in the 1920's. So, it was a trip of discovery of our ancestral roots. We made the trip in

Scotland in late November means cold days with little sunshine. Sunrise each day was after 8:30 am and sunset occurred before 4 pm. The fascinating part of these short days of sunshine was the location of the sun in the sky. It sat very low in the southern sky. In fact, there were several days when I was disoriented about direction. Usually, I am very good about knowing direction. However, when the sun sits as low as it does in Scotland in the winter, there were times when I wasn't sure if I was looking east, west, or south. Even at midday the sun sat so low it looked like a setting sun, or was it

As we move beyond Thanksgiving, I think about the disorientation we can experience in this season of holiday. Our consumer culture wants to induce us into a buying panic. It pretty much works, as one feeding frenzy presses hard into the next. The constant refrain in our home is centered on who we have on the family exchange lists and what should we get them. The other constant is well-meaning family members asking us what we want for Christmas.

We can also get lured into the stress of wanting to plan and experience the idealized Christmas holiday season. Think Clark Griswold and his desire for an old-fashioned family Christmas. Although, I am wondering what kind of exterior illumination to use on our new home.

Perhaps our longing for the ideal is rooted in the desire for something more and better. However, this can lead to grasping for an unrealistic ideal that undermines the reality with which we have been blessed. The greatest danger of idealized pictures is that they can lead us to see what we have – and often who we are – as insufficient, unworthy, unimportant, or incomplete. This is a false narrative; this is not how God sees us.

The season of holiday can be something different. It can be a time not of disorientation but of reorientation. We can allow our longing for hope, our longing for joy, our longing for peace, our longing for love to put our craving to consume into proper perspective. Our gaze can be directed to this present moment, imperfect yet beloved, fragile yet important, flawed yet beautiful. We can focus our time and efforts on being agents of love, peace, joy, and hope. We can choose to give with a purpose that furthers justice and healing. We can spend time with neighbors and family, nurturing community and connection.

Into the darkness of December there comes not a sale, but a birth of hope to the despairing, comfort to the grieving, strength to the weak, deliverance to the discouraged, peace to the troubled, joy to the sorrowful. May this season be a time of reorientation for you.

Speaking of orientation, a bunch of humans gather each Sunday to worship in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortune Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.

pastor@islandpresby.com



NEWS from the PIPOA

By Drew Diggins

By Drew Diggins President PIPOA

The next Padre Isles Property Owners Association board meeting will be held at the Wyndham Corpus Christi Resort, 15202 Windward Drive, on December 12, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

The next ACC meeting will be held at the PIPOA office on December 7, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Canal Connection

Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC ("DBH"), has delivered the final portion of information required to complete the POA's flow study, including the recent changes to Diamond Beach Holding's canal dimensions. With this information, the PIPOA engineering consultant, Anchor QEA, has completed the preliminary computer modeling and expects to have a full report ready for the December 12 Board Meeting. Anchor QEA will be expanding the flow study on the POA canals from the 5-year recurring storm model used in the Diamond Beach Holding study to include a 25-year recurring storm study. The PIPOA is also obtaining a bathymetric study of the Cruiser and Gypsy canals to establish the existing canal contours prior to connecting to the DBH canal system. This will be used as a baseline to address any future erosion

and/or redeposition in these canals.

PIPOA 2024 Boat Ramp Policy

The PIPOA Board has been working on clarifying the 2024 Parking Rules for the Association's boat ramps. The Association has posted a draft of these rules on the Association's website at www.padreislespoa. net. PIPOA members are invited to contact the PIPOA with comments, concerns, or questions. Submittals should be in writing and can be submitted to the Executive Director, Gary Klepperich, at gary@pipoa. net. The Board will consider these updated parking rules along with member comments at the December 12 Board Meeting with the intention of adopting them before January 2024.

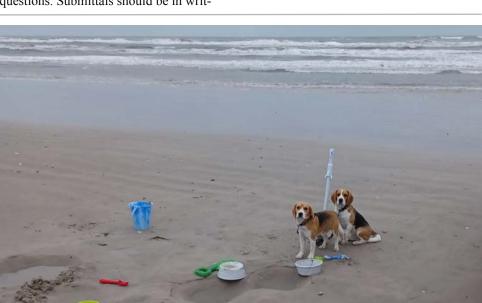
Board Position Opening

John Plotnik has resigned from the board. John has been very active in PIPOA board discussions and board meetings. He contributed his professional experience with municipal departments and often provided thoughtful suggestions. The entire board thanks John for his time on the board. The board will appoint a new member to fill out Mr. Plotnick's term. Anyone interested in serving on the PIPOA should submit a resume to the POA office for consideration.

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2023 La Posada Schedule

La Posada Toys for Tots Kickoff Party

Friday, December 1, 6 p.m. HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill

There is no charge for entry to the party, guests are encouraged to bring a toy for

Toys for Tots.

La Posada Lighted Boat Parade

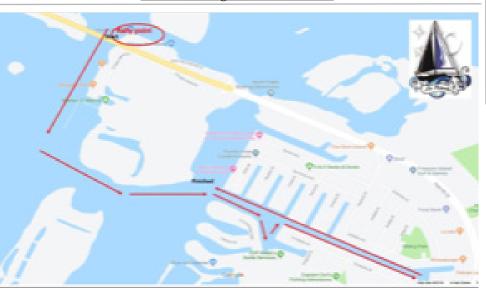
Friday, December 8, 7 p.m. Broadcast by KRIS 6 Television from Snoopy's Oyster Bar

Begins at JFK Bridge continues through North Island canals

Lighted Boat Parade Watch Party

Friday, December 8, 7 p.m. HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill

La Posada Lighted Boat Parade



Friday night Parade Route



Saturday night Parade Route

Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Ruster

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

City of God

This is a portion of a wall inside the Chapel on

the Dunes. It is painted in fresco style, a method

of painting water-based pigments on freshly

applied plaster. The colors, which are made by

grinding dry-powder pigments in pure water, dry

and set with the plaster to become a permanent part of the wall. If you get the chance, take a

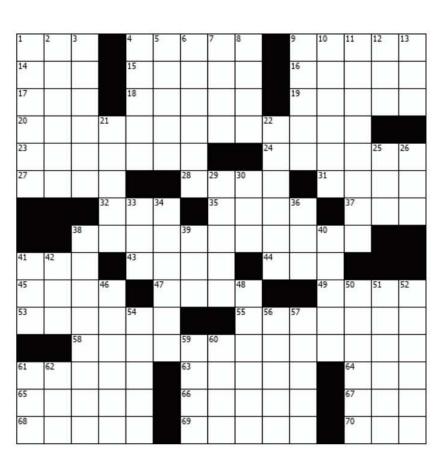
tour. It's done on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the

month. By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Across

- Commercial-free network
- 4. With Picchu, a place in Peru
- 9. Creature known for its keen vision
- 14. Grain in a Salinger title 15. Where van Gogh lived
- for a while
- 16. With less moisture
- 17. Old cloth measure
- 18. What all manual products need to work
- 19. Doomed one
- 20. Classic sports film
- 23. Very old
- 24. Oil-rich peninsula
- 27. Loser to VHS
- 28. Visited Davy Jones' locker, in a way
- 31. "Song ___ Blue" (Neil Diamond hit)
- 32. It comes before a dropped name
- 35. Spaghetti recipe word 37. "Norma ___" (1979)
- 38. William Faulkner work
- 41. Money player
- 43. Sources of problems for prima donnas
- 44. Restorative resort
- 45. Handle without care
- 47. Word with bug or misty
- 49. The better part
- 53. Piercing, as a sound
- 55. Muse of lyric poetry
- 58. Donkey or ox, e.g.
- 61. Pirate's potables 63. Fur trader John Jacob
- 64. The six of "Little Nellie Kelly"
- 65. Boleyn and Rice
- 66. Hopeless
- 67. Steak partner
- 68. Opera villain, often
- 69. Does a database chore 70. Timothy Leary stash

Island Crossword



Down

- 1. Built before shipped 2. Credit for a crossword constructor
- 3. Jukebox verb
- 4. Norman Lear show
- 5. Smokey the Bear's nightmare
- 6. Fissures
- 7. Drover's charge
- 8. Superpower until 1991
- 9. Poe or Degas
- Starbucks emanations
- 11. A Supreme Court

justice

- 12. "Enter the Dragon" star
- 13. Be imperfect

- 21. Tarzan's swing 22. "The Gross Clinic" painter
- Words with jiffy or
- 26. Wine improver
- 29. It voids warranties 30. Easter preceder
- 33. Obsolete
- preposition
- 34. Marx colleague 36. Tip of a pouring
- spout
- 38. Some whiskeys
- 39. Baby in blue 40. One who assigns
- an identifying word 41. Parliament VIPs

- 42. It's a bit of cheer
- 46. Feudal lords
- 48. More skillful
- 50. Trying experience
- 51. They can be hot, cold or dry
- 52. Became taut
- Stock-acquisition aid?
- 56. German craft

inhabitants

- 57. Ottoman Empire
- 59. Starts a paragraph,
- electronically 60. Capital of Norway
- 61. Social one's gift
- 62. Genetic initials

Police Blotter November 19 - 26th

JFK Causeway to SPID-**Aquarius intersection**

13500 block SPID 1 p.m. November 22

Traffic

38 Traffic Stops

13300 block SPID 5 p.m. November 23 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Assault with Injury

14500 block Cabana East 1 a.m. November 19 Assault

15400 block Fortuna Bay 3 p.m. November 20 Assault

Crimes against Property

14300 block SPID 3 p.m. November 24 Criminal Trespass/Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of Marijuana/ Possession of Controlled Substance/Theft \$100-\$750/Burglary (While it is unconfirmed at press time it is suspected that this individual may have his membership to Mensa revoked).

Trespassing

of Services

Suspicious Person

13500 block SPID 1 p.m. November 23

Crimes against Person

14300 block Cruiser St. 3 p.m. November 24

13900 block Windjammer 10 a.m. November 22

14100 block Jackfish 4 p.m. November 19 Theft

Disturbances

14500 block SPID 5 p.m. November 26 Trespassing

16000 block Cuttysark Midnight November 20 Boat Fire or Rescue

Suspicious Person

15300 block SPID 10 p.m. November 23 15300 block SPID 10 p.m. November 23 Traffic

129 Traffic Stops

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits Crimes against Property

15200 block Leeward 1 a.m. November 25

Destruction or Criminal Mischief Disturbances

15200 block Windward 9 p.m. November 23 Noise Ordinance Violation

6700 block Seacomber 7 p.m. November 24

Fireworks **Traffic**

49 Traffic Stops 15200 block Windward 5 p.m. November 25

Crash

Moon Classifieds #1024

Here's how to place a **Classified Ad**

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 Deadline for classified ads is no later than NOON on Tuesday **PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLICATION**

We accept American Express, Visa, . MasterCard

Legal & Business Notices

Do you need to place a legal or business notice? You'll find that our rates for running your notice cost less than many other publication in Nueces County. Call Arlene @ 361-834-1382 The Island Moon Weekly for more information

The Island Newspaper since 1996

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage **Commission for a Mixed Beverage** with a Food & Beverage Certificate by MKT LLC dba Captain's Diner, to be located at 15541 S Padre Island Dr. Corpus Christi, TX 78418. Owner of said LLC is Minas Talarantas.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission for a (NE) Private **Club Permit by Howard Schauer** dba Jessie Little Post No. 8932 Veterans of Foreign Wars to be located at 702 Jester Street, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Howard Schauer: his title is President.

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361-960-0345 For Sale

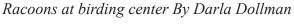


Bar Height Barrel Table

With lazy Susan and four swivel stools \$750

Offers accepted **Contact Debbie at:** 405-210-3580

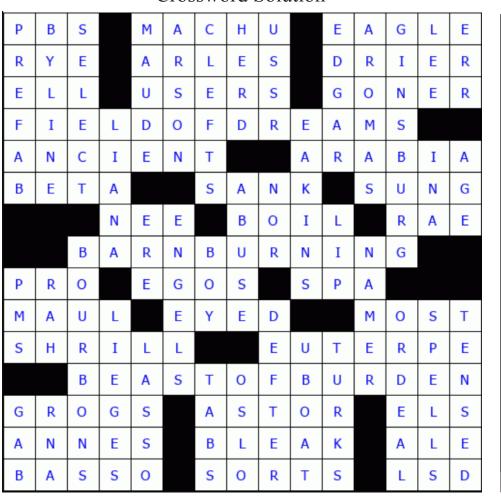


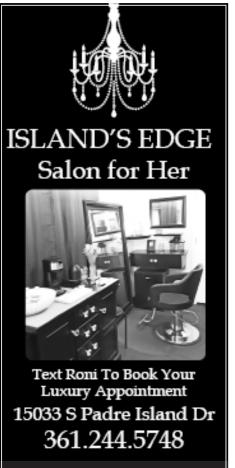




Whooping crane on Goose Island. Photos by Jim Morgan

Crossword Solution

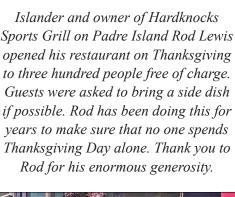






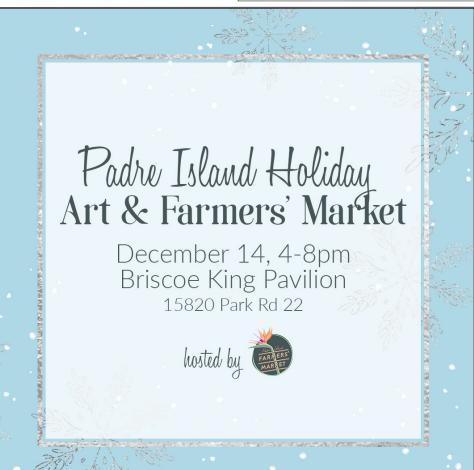














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achievement,
gardening, NUTHENT-DENSE FOOD
EXPERIENCES, physical
activity and school &
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.





Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go!

It's time for us to get our garden beds built, we are looking for volunteers to help this Saturday at Seashore Learning Center.

We will start 9:15am, the more helpers the faster we finished. We have some but it

would be a great help if we had these additional items:

Drill

Driii Rake Shovel



American Legion Post 229 The Islander Post

Taking Care of the Greatest Generation

By Ken Ames

The term, "The Greatest Generation" became synonymous with the generation of Americans born between 1901 and 1924. They grew up during the great depression and many fought in World War II or supported the war effort back home. It gained the moniker after the publication of the best-selling book, The Greatest Generation, by NBC News journalist Tom Brokaw in 1998. Brokaw called them, "A generation of towering achievement and modest demeanor, a legacy of their formative years when they were participants in and witness to sacrifices of the highest order... This is the greatest generation any society has produced." When the Empire of Japan attacked Pearl

Harbor on December 7th, 1941, it changed the United States' involvement from formal neutrality to a formal declaration of war. The "Greatest Generation" stepped up to fight, with more than 16 million people fighting during the war. 291, 557 Americans were killed and 671,278 were wounded. It is beyond a doubt that the United States and the world owe a huge debt to the soldiers that sacrificed so much to squash the governments that were determined to take away the freedoms of so many.

On November 10, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that all World War II Veterans are now eligible for no-cost VA inpatient and outpatient health care. Under this expansion, all WWII Veterans who served between Dec. 7, 1941 and Dec. 31, 1946, are now eligible for VA health care, regardless of their length of service or financial status. These Veterans will not have to pay inpatient or outpatient copays, enrollment fees, or monthly premiums. Nursing home care is free for nearly all World War II Veterans who are eligible for nursing home services at the VA. The VA encourages all WW II era Veterans that are not already in the VA system, or didn't previously qualify for care due to length of service or financial status, to reap-

ply with the VA. The American Legion can

help with directing Veterans and their fam-

ilies to the proper channels, forms and assistance in dealing with VA claims, DD214 requests, education benefits, and death/burial benefits. We offer these services to any Veteran, or active-duty service members that are transitioning out of the military. Our members were invited to Veterans Day celebrations at Seashore Learning Center and Sam Houston Elementary and were honored to represent the Island. The displays of patriotism touched our hearts and the flyover by the Coast Guard helicopter was a crowd favorite. We look forward to many more mentoring opportunities in the future.

We had great success with our Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway that helped eight local families that needed a little help this year. Thank you to Stephen Armstrong for heading this project and thanks to our sponsor H.E.B. for providing the turkeys and gift cards.

We are receiving great response from businesses in regards to our "Salute to Service" American Legion Silent and Live auction event with musical performances by Jake Bush and Ty Dietz, January 20th, 2024 at Marker 37. We are going around to area businesses with packets including a brochure that we are requesting be displayed. The brochure has two QR codes; one is for anyone wanting to join American Legion Post 229 or make a donation, the second is for information on our event, including sponsorship packages and general admission tickets. Information can also be viewed at: https://salutetoservice2024.

betterworld.org/
Our next meeting is scheduled for December 6th at the Island Italian restaurant.
Social hour begins at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm. If you are a veteran or family member and would like to join or get information about American Legion Post 229, the American Legion, or the American Legion Riders, please check out our Facebook page: American Legion Post 0229 "The Islander Post" or reach out to our email: Americanlegionpost0229@gmail.com.





A Tricolor Heron at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. By Darla Dollman



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Texas A&M AgriLife will have Master Gardener's here to demonstrate how to build the beds

Bobble Head Hula Girls...



All I want for Christmas is a new bobble head hula girl.

It's officially the end of the year and the Christmas holidays are rapidly approaching. My Mermaid Gal has been on me to concoct a "Wish List" on Amazon so her family will know what to get me for Christmas. That's harder than it sounds for a 70 year old man with simple needs. But after much deliberation, I came up with a bobble head hula girl, compression socks and a little wagon to pull our stuff around when we go to San Jose' Island... and I'm not even kidding. I usually tell her I really don't need anything but, truth be told, you can never have too many bobble head hula girls around the house. Our resident bobble head hula girl is Sassy, which is screwed to my golf cart right next to the rubber alligator, is a big fat mess these days. The rust got to her and left her in a constant sideways bobble... poor thing. I digress.

Winter Texan Indicators... One thing I've noticed lately is the increasing

number of Winter Texans which have recently infiltrated our little island. I mean, it's no secret that they're coming eventually but I still seem to always get that childlike enthusiasm every time I see a license plate from Iowa or Minnesota or Canada around town. I've never been to Iowa or Minnesota or Canada, but I do get a kick out of their license plates and keep a running tally in my head for highest number of tags from any certain state. And if you really want to keep up with the influx (other than counting license plates) then check out the day drinkers at Bernie's or the Gaff during the BELT SANDER RACES. I've made some great Winter Texan friends through the years and always look forward to having them back for the "off" season. And starting in the middle of January, the hybrid band, PA Rockers (with both local and Winter Texan band members) will commence their usual "Every Wednesday" gig at Bernie's starting in mid January. Plus you should be noticing some City Parks and Rec Department sponsored events geared toward our temporary residents such as the Winter Texan Welcome Back Picnic at the Winter Texan Sock Hop or the water aerobics classes at the heated Community Pool. Plus there's other cool stuff for them such as the arts and crafts classes at the Port A Art Center or bird watching at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. It also a good indication they're back when the knitted "bollard buddies" start showing up around town. It's a different world around



The Winter Texans were thick as thieves at the Gaff's Belt Sander Races last Saturday

Scattered shots...

Shorty's and the VFW were about the only ones having live music last week around Port A last weekend but it was a treat. Shorty's had some players that hadn't been around for a while plus a new surprise. But the weather was cooperative and it was *Thanksgiving* weekend so we had plenty to party about. On Friday Shorty's had a band I hadn't seen yet, Heavy Soul. This three piece band is a spin-off of the Chainlinks, who are a really good cover rock band with the remarkable Celeste Torres on lead vocals. The

Chainlinks guitarist, Louie Mandel and drummer Landin Martinez teamed up with bassist Andrew Jueig to comprise Heavy Soul and brother have they got it going on and in a BIG way. I'm their newest fan. Its rock and roll for sure, some of its alt and some is just their own take... but it's all good. There's no mistaking, those cats are excellent musicians. It will be fun watching them rise to the top. I also caught the Jam Band at Shorty's last Saturday. That was a pleasant surprise. Their singer, Darrell McCullough has an exceptional voice. He's pretty amazing being that he's blind but you'd never know it. I watched him for a good hour before I figured it out. I've known their guitarist Donald Aguirre and drummer Arnold Marcha for some time and really like this version of the **Jam Band**. I also ran by the VFW to see the great bluesman John Cortez. He's always good



Heavy Soul with Louie Mandel, Landin Martinez and Andrew Jueig played Shorty's last Friday.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...



The Jam Band played Shorty's last Saturday.

It looks like another fun weekend for live music around here. The Cajun/zydeco band Boudreaux and Pousson (that's Boo and Poo to you) will be coming back to Shorty's this Friday the 1st. They played there a couple of weeks ago and blew the roof off the joint. I'm a big fan of the genre and the state of Louisiana. These guys are from Houma and are the real deal. In fact my old pal from S.A. Jim Beal tells me that Adam Pousson is actually a Cajun blacksmith. It's just the two of them on stage so they employ a drum machine and a looper which makes every song a building process. I'm really sold on these guys... can you tell? Also on Friday blues rocker Rich Lockhart will play the VFW and in town I recommend the Raul Ayala Band at the House of Rock and the Passing Strangers Band with the mega talented John Boyd from San Antonio will play Rockit's. The Passing Strangers are a top shelf cover band that frequently played my clubs in SA. Boyd is one of those guys that could sing the phone book (if we still had phone books.) On Saturday the 2nd the VFW will host their annual Don't Give a Damn Sam Chili and Pinto Bean Cook Off with the Groove supplying the music. Also on Saturday Justin and Niki will play Shorty's and Coach Jim Dugan will be rocking the Gaff. Plus there are some good shows in town... the **Chainlinks** are at *Rockit's*, **Jon Wolfe** is at *Brewster Street Downtown*, **Starlite and the Moonbeams** will play *Vernon's* and Splendiferous will play the Pelican Lounge

on Padre. Be safe yall.



Blues man John Cortez played the VFW last weekend.



Boudreaux and Pousson will play Shorty's on Friday, Dec 1st.



The Groove will play at the VFW's Chili Cook Off on Saturday

LIVE MUSIC TONG-IT

<u>Friday ,</u> December 1

Boudreaux & Pousson @ Shorty's Rich Lockhart @ VFW Raul Ayala @ House of Rock Passing Strangers @ Rockits JonMikael Mrez @ Pelican Lounge The Groove @ Hard Knocks Chillbillies @ South Texas Ice House Rudolph Llanes @ Art Walk John Cortez @ RETRO National Nobodyz @ Sugar Shack

Michael Perez @ Kbobs Matt Hole @ The Annex Magnus @ Victoria Art Walk Ruben Limas @

<u>Saturday,</u> <u>December 2</u> CHILI COOK-OFF @ The Groove @ VFW Justin & Niki @ Shorty's Jim Dugan @ Gaff Chainlinks @ Rockits Koffin Kats, Escape From the Zoo, Drastic Actions @ House of Rock Jon Wolfe @ Brewster Downtown Alley Catz @ Cassidy's Pub Starlite & the Moonbeams @ Vernon's Splendiferous @ Pelican Lounge Diamond's Edge @

Blackbeard's

Sunday,

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

South Texas Ice House

Bushbullit @ K-Bobs

December 3 Ty Dietz, Jim Dugan @ Shorty's Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater AP Jam Night @ The Exchange Lady Kat & Mattman @ House of Rock Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's

Michael Burtts @

BEACH CART RENTALS

Pelican Lounge Eric Magnus @ Sunset Hideaway Ingleside

<u>Monday,</u> December 4

Lance Covington @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, December 5

Billy Snipes @ VFW Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Joey St. Vincent @ Mesquite Street Southside

Treasure Island

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND

SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

BOUDREAUX & POUSSON

INDEPENDENT THIEVES

TY DIETZ, JIM DUGAN

JUSTIN & NIKI

Wednesday, December 6

Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff Cleartones @ VFW Sonny Salinas @ Rockits Eddie Alaniz @ Pelican Lounge Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Thursday, December 7

Welcome Back Winter Texans Picnic Port A Selfie @ Shorty's Brad Ethridge @ Gaff Old 97's @ House of Rock Raul Ayala @ Rockit's Brad Brown @ DEC 1 Blackbeard's DEC 2 Cruise Control @ Brewster Street DEC 9

<u>Friday, December 8</u>

Downtown

DEC 10

La Pasada Lighted Boat Parade @ N. Padre TBA @ Shorty's George Birge @ Brewster Downtown Raul Ayala @ Retro Jon Car @ Pelican Lounge OTB @ Doc's

<u>Saturday</u>,

DEC 1 December 9 PORT A LIGHTED **BOAT PARADE & DEC 5** DRONE SHOW DEC 6 BELT SANDER

RACES @ Gaff

Independent Thieves @ Shorty's The Gainans @ VFW Dunebillies @ Boat Parade

MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967

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THE GAFF

LIVE MUSIC

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