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Issue 1025

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The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

December 8, 2023

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



By Dale Rankin

It is a week of finishes and near-finishes here on our little sandbar as the Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge passes from the construction to the completion stage. Crews this week put the finishing touches on the road paving and a ribbon cutting is set for 11 a.m. Friday morning on the Lake Padre side of SPID/Park Road 22. As you can see from the history of the bridge in the last issue this process began in 1997 and came to fruition this week thanks to the work of city council members, the Island Strategic Action Committee, and the private landowners who brought the canals to the bridge before the bridge was built in order to move the project from the design phase to construction and now completion. This is a big deal for our Island and will be the lynchpin for development and Island mobility over the next several decades. It's been a long road but we have arrived. Not surprisingly bridges are a big part of construction on The Island as crews work to finish the two-year overhaul of the JFK Bridge and work is set to begin shortly on a new bridge on Commodores Drive that will provide another outlet for water exchange; we include the design drawings for the bridge in this issue. The question of how to connect the new canals under the Don Patricio Bridge and the Whitecap NPI development to the existing Island canals will be discussed the next meeting of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors (see the agenda and PIPOA President Drew Diggins' column in this issue).

PIPOA Board seats

The window to apply to run for seats on the PIPOA Board is now open and closes on Tuesday, December 14 (see more information on Page 15 of this issue) and Executive Director Gary Kleperich reports that as of this week that only one candidate has filed for the three seats on the ballot. A fourth spot opened last week with the resignation of board member John Plotnik whose term runs through 2025. That seat will be filled by appointment of the board but as of mid-week no timeline for that appointment had been set. The terms are for three years and the notices/ballots to PIPOA members will be sent out after the registration period closes and the ballots opened and winners announced at the annual members meeting in March.

Water restrictions

It was announced at the Corpus

Don Patricio Bridge Finished on time and on budget



Crews are moving the sand dam on the west side of the bridge further from the bridge structure in order to place articulated mats along the canals next to the bridge for scour protection.

By Dale Rankin

After two decades of planning and almost three years of construction the \$14.8 million Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge was completed this week on schedule and

on budget.

Crews from contractor Haas-Anderson finished the paving work on the bridge mid-week and removed equipment from the work yard adjacent to the bridge

in anticipation of a ribbon cutting scheduled for 11 a.m., Friday, December 8 at the bridge site. That ceremony will likely be conducted without the canal under the new bridge being open.

Completion of the bridge comes as the Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors is set to decide at its meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at the Wyndham Hotel on Windward Drive, whether to approve the removal of the bulkhead that would connect the canal



The canal ready to be opened.



This pipe is the only current water connection between the bridge and Lake Padre.

Don Pat cont. on A3

Dredge moves to mouth of Packery Channel

The dredge from Callen Marine which is currently working to dredge Packery Channel to 14 feet this week moved its operation to the mouth of the channel and will work inland toward the State Highway 361 bridge. The dredge material is currently being placed on Michael J. Ellis Beach adjacent to the Wyndham Resort. Beach managers for the City of Corpus Christi said this week the outflow from the dredge pipeline will continue to move southward as the project continues to a point on the beach south of Whitecap Drive and widen the beach past the 150-



foot width required by The Texas Open Beach Act to allow for vehicular traffic. The project must

be completed by March in order to leave the beach clear during the spring turtle nesting season.

A little Island history

When the Iron Horse Came to the Wild Horse Desert

By Dale Rankin

At the turn of the twentieth century the area between Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande Valley was still a wide open place. Little had changed in the half century since General Zachary Taylor marched his army through the area during the U.S.-Mexico War with the major exception being the founding of the King Ranch in 1853. By the end of the Civil War the ranch had grown to 146,000 acres and was home to thousands of head of cattle which were one thousand miles from the nearest



Gulf Coast Lines

railhead that would connect them to eastern markets.

Soldiers retuning from the war

found thousands of wild Texas

History cont. on page A5

Daily rental of three houses in residential neighborhoods will cease

Island Short-Term Rental Houses for sale or long-term lease

By Dale Rankin

Home builder Mike Mostaghassi who has been operating Short-Term Rental houses on Padre Island in violation of city zoning ordinances since January said this week he will no longer rent them for short-term stay. Efforts by District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley who has been pushing the City Attorney's Office to push the cases to court came to fruition this week when the 72 citations issued to Mostaghassi went to Municipal Court leading him to place the houses on the market "I'm either going to sell them or lease them long-term," Mostaghassi told the Island Moon this week. City records show that city inspectors have issued Mr. Mostaghassi citations for either operating the STR in residential Island neighborhoods or advertising them, which is also a violation of city ordinance, since January, 16, 2023.

Homes cont. on A5

2023 La Posada Schedule

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. Hard-Knocks Sports Bar & Grill **La Posada Lighted Boat Parade** Saturday, December 9 Begins 6 p.m. at Caravel Boat Ramp continues through South Island canals See maps for parade routes in this issue on B 12.

A little Island history

La Posada Lighted Boat Parade

By Dale Rankin

The La Posada Lighted Boat Parades we have today began an informal gathering of a few Islanders in 1970 when Island houses were rare. The informal "parade" started with a group of friends then in 1974 it became an organized annual event in when a group of Padre Island boat enthusiasts decided to start an annual lighted boat parade. The parade was begun to commemorate the search by Mary and Joseph for lodging as described in the Gospel books of the Bible when Bishop Thomas J. Druiry from the Diocese of Corpus

Parade cont. on A3

Around cont. on A5

Skip the Plastic's Cleanup Heroes for the month of December are Martha Habluetzel and Susan Beaubien, who founded Cleanup Ingleside in September. They started a Facebook Group and encouraged others to join them in cleanups around Ingleside. They've held a cleanup each month, and spend 2 to 3 hours picking up trash along streets and in parks. Their movement is growing and some local businesses have begun to help out.

Skip the Plastic
By Neil McQueen
Surfrider Foundation
Texas Coastal Bend Chapter



Jennifer Seymour and Rob Witherington went all out for this year's Padre Island Golf Cart Christmas Parade. Jennifer cut all of the panels and painted them and Rob built the frame for the sleigh named Santa and the Reindeer's disco party. They even added a lighted "IslandLife" lighted license plate. Now that's some talent and creativity right there! Great job and Happy Holidays.



Port A Christmas Golf Cart Parade 2023
Photo by Neesy Tompkins and Ronnie Narmour



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Connecting Island Canals

What the permit says



As the discussion on the connection of the canal under the new Don Patricio Bride to the existing Island canals continues we take look at what is required under permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they apply to the subject.

The following excerpts are taken from a letter from the Regulatory Branch of the U.S Army Corps of Engineers dated January 23, 2015 and sent to Gulf Shores Joint Venture regarding permit number SWG-2000-02743 regarding the construction of a canal under the Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge in preparation for the beginning of construction of the bridge. The purpose of the amendment to the permit, first issued in 1974, was to change the previously approved water exchange culvert under SPID/Park Road 22 to a bridge. The permit was obtained by the Island Moon through the Freedom of Information Act.

This is a legacy permit. Permit SWG-2000-02743 has a history dating back to back to 1973 when Department of the Army Permit 9009 was issued to allow the development of a portion of North Padre Island. The portion of North Padre Island that is the subject of the permit amendment request, the Lake Padre Subdivision, was separated from Permit 9009 in 1986 after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) approved the request, and Permit 17760 was created. Permit 17760 became SWG-2000-02743 in 2008. The Applicant acquired the permit in a transfer in 1995.

For the water quality and circulation enhancements, the Applicant is proposing to: (1) widen the opening of Packery channel to 85 feet; and (2) install the canal connection under Park Road 22 instead of the culvert. The circulation features should compensate for the remaining FCUs—20.335

Additionally, the applicant has chosen to act upon the comments and recommendation by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and has agreed to expand the connection between Lake Padre and Packery Channel, the pass linking the Gulf of Mexico with the upper Laguna Madre/Corpus Christi Bay complex. The Applicant will be responsible for widening the opening Packery Channel to Lake Padre from 50 feet to approximately 85 feet. The opening shall be increased by moving the west edge 35 feet to the west. Detailed engineering will be coordinated with the City of Corpus during the construction permit process. The Applicant’s rough estimate is that the cost will fall between \$600,000-750,000. All construction efforts will be coordinated with the Corps as appropriate.

Additionally, the applicant has chosen to act upon the comments and recommendation by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and has agreed to expand the connection between Lake Padre and Packery Channel, the pass linking the Gulf of Mexico with the upper Laguna Madre/Corpus Christi Bay complex. The Applicant will be responsible for widening the opening Packery Channel to Lake Padre from 50 feet to approximately 85 feet. The opening shall be increased by moving the west edge 35 feet to the west. Detailed engineering will be coordinated with the City of Corpus during the construction permit process. The Applicant’s rough estimate is that the cost will fall between \$600,000-750,000. All construction efforts will be coordinated with the Corps as appropriate.

From the beginning of this development, circulation improvement and maintenance has been a key aspect of the planned mitigation. In the 2002 permit, the canal system to the west of Park Road 22 was to be connected via culvert. That culvert was relatively small. Under the new proposed permit, the culvert will be replaced by a canal structure crossing under the road and by a new canal on the west side of the road that will connect into the existing canal system on the west side. This modification will increase the flow into the existing channel complex on the west side of Park Road 22 by a factor of 3.7. The improved circulation will improve water quality by flushing nitrogen and phosphorus and reducing the algal growth that tends to negatively impact dissolved oxygen levels in canals on the west side.

Additionally, during the agency review of this proposed amendment and renewal, Texas Parks and Wildlife suggested that the open-water opening from this development into Packery Channel be widened. That suggestion has been adopted by the Applicant, and the opening will be widened to 85 feet. This improvement will further enhance circulation.

The result of this water quality and circulation mitigation is that there will be greatly increased circulation and flow within Lake Padre and the canal systems to the west. Although it is difficult to translate this circulation enhancement directly into FCUs, it is the Applicant’s position that the water circulation and water quality elements are essential aspects to the functional viability and health of the environment. When those elements are not present in sufficient quantities, then negative impacts result and can be far reaching. Thus in the circumstances of this project, the water circulation and water quality elements are, in essence, the bedrock of the healthy environment. To this end, there must be mitigation credit given for the Applicant’s implementation of these features.

Given the factors above, the creation of the enhanced circulation via channel connection rather than culvert connection; the widening of the opening into Packery Channel; and the creation of a diverse habitat on the island, consisting mostly of wetlands, will offer adequate compensation for the baseline 35 acres and the functional value.

Parade cont. from A1

Christi blessed the boats as they set out going from house to house in their symbolic search for shelter. The boaters decorated their boats and sang Christmas carols at each stop. It wasn’t until later years that the Toys for Tots drive was added.

In the beginning the boats set out from the north end of Padre Island which was the only area developed. Then in the 1980s the event migrated to the Club House at Anchor Resort which was the original home of the Padre Island Sailing Society, a group of sailing enthusiasts who liked the acronym. It was then an annual event but still very informal.

Then in August 1996, the doors to the current home of the Padre Island Yacht Club, the two-story building at the west end of Whitecap were opened and that location became ground zero for the parade as boats line up in the water east of Whitecap and made the turn past the Yacht Club where the judges were was located. This was the choice spot for parade watching as it is where the boats would make their promise to impress the judges.

In the beginning there was annual funding for the parades from the Padre Isles Property Owners Association. The money was used to pay various expenses and in some cases to help decorate boats and pay for

trophies for the winners. Seashore Charter Schools became the host of the event partially because that is where the account for the event was kept, and Seashore kids began designing a new logo each year which was printed on tee-shirts sold to raise money and on Christmas ornaments made by the kids. That practice continued until 2010 when the school handed the reins to the Padre Island Yacht Club which handed it off as a separate to a Not for Profit organization in 2017 where it remains today. Along the way Toys for Tots was added as the event’s charity and it has now become the largest single toy-raising event in Texas. In 2009 the La Posada Kickoff Party was added and a number of events have been added since. In 2018 three big changes were made when a Grand Marshal was added, the Friday night parade route was extended to include the area near the JFK Bridge, and local television began broadcasting the Saturday parade live.

So when you take part in the La Posada Boat Parade you are helping to grow an Island tradition that began as an informal get-together way back when a new home cost \$34,900, gas was 55 cents per gallon, inflation was 11%, and President Richard Nixon took his last ride in Air Force One.

PIPOA 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 12th **Board Meeting with the intention of adopting them** before January 2024.

Don Pat cont. from A1

under the new bridge to the existing canals on Padre Island. Tim Lange, the managing partner of Gulf Shores Joint Ventures has said he will not remove the dam blocking saltwater from the Lake Padre side of the bridge until an agreement is reached. Board members have resisted the connection of the canals citing the lack of an agreement for the process between the PIPOA and Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC. which owns the Whitecap NPI project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for connecting the canals is held by Gulf Shores Development. That permit was originally issued in 1974 and amended in 1997 to allow for the installation of culverts under the SPID roadway to facilitate the introduction of water from the Gulf of Mexico into the Island canal system to improve water quality. The culverts were exchanged for a bridge, the Don Patricio Bridge, under an amendment to the corps permit in 2014, see language from that permit in this issue. Since 1997 all subsequent corps permit updates have been based on the assumption that the canal under the new bridge would be connected to existing Island canals, and in fact increasing water flow to those canals has been the stated goal.

One obstacle to connecting the PIPOA canals to the bridge canal was removed when the Flour Bluff School District agreed verbally to allow the removal of a sliver of the 6.7 acres of land that borders Whitecap Boulevard on the south and a canal on the east and which is owned by the district to be removed to eliminate the need for a slight bend in the connection of the old and new canals. The district board was set to cast a formal vote on the matter Thursday evening as the Island Moon went to press. Board members said this week they are awaiting a study, the fourth to be done, regarding the speed of water flow through PIPOA canals once the connection to the new canal is made. None of the previous three studies found that connecting the canals posed a danger to Island bulkheads. One of the studies was done at the request of the City of Corpus Christi to determine if the connection of the canals poses a problem for the bridge under Whitecap Boulevard or the bridge on Gypsy Street. That study found no issues but some hardening of the bridges may be necessary in future years and some reinforcement of the approaches to the bridges may be undertaken in the short term for the sake of caution.

Around cont. from A1

Christi City Council meeting on Tuesday that unless we get something close to eighteen inches of rain the watershed in the next three months we are headed for Stage 2 water restrictions by the end of 2023 which means cutting back landscape irrigation to one day every other week with the final schedule decided by the city manager. It looks like a good time to put in turf everybody.

Watch out for bears!

Texas Parks and Wildlife this week put out a Bear Alert so if you see one don’t offer him a ride, also be aware that Island bridges may form ice in freezing weather. It’s time to La Posada everybody we’ll see you on the canals. That’s all for now but remember half of the fishermen on The Island are above average and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Padre Island Holiday Market
Photos by Debbie Nobel

Moon Monkeys

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Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Trench Warfare Part 3



Dotson's Note: Tunnelling was like sapping except that a "roof" of soil was left in place while the trench line was established and then removed when the trench was ready to be occupied. The guidelines for British trench construction stated that it would take 450 men 6 hours at night to complete 250 m (270 yd) of front-line trench system. Thereafter, the trench would require constant maintenance to prevent deterioration caused by weather or shelling. Thanks to Joe Mix and Fred Shope, who were both World War I combat veterans, for the facts contained in this report and thanks to Ernest Brooks for the photos.

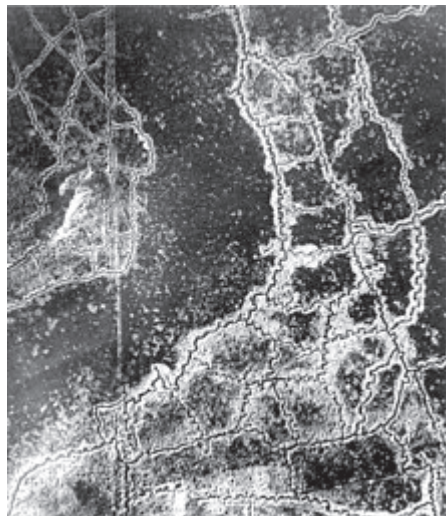
Trenchmen were a specialized unit of trench excavators and repairmen. They usually dug or repaired in groups of four with an escort of two armed soldiers. Trenchmen were armed with one 1911 semi-automatic pistol, and were only utilized when either a new trench needed to be dug or expanded quickly, or when a trench was destroyed by artillery fire. Trenchmen were trained to dig with incredible speed; in a dig of three to six hours they could accomplish what would take a normal group of frontline infantry soldiers around two days. Trenchmen were usually looked down upon by fellow soldiers because they did not fight. They were usually called cowards because if they were attacked while digging, they would abandon the post and flee to safety. They were instructed to do this though because through the war there were only around 1,100 trained trenchmen. They were highly valued only by officers higher on the chain of command.



Breastwork "Trench" Armistères, 1916

The banked earth on the lip of the trench facing the enemy was called the parapet and had a fire step. The embanked rear lip of the trench was called the parados, which protected the soldier's back from shells falling behind the trench. The sides of the trench were often revetted with sandbags, wire mesh, wooden frames and sometimes roofs. The floor of the trench was usually covered by wooden duckboards. In later designs the floor might be raised on a wooden frame to provide a drainage channel underneath. Due to the substantial casualties taken from indirect fire, some trenches were reinforced with corrugated metal roofs over the top as an improvised defense from shrapnel. The static movement of trench warfare and a need for protection from snipers created a requirement for loopholes both for discharging firearms and for observation. Often a steel plate was used with a «key hole», which had a rotating piece to cover the loophole when not in use. German snipers used armor-piercing bullets that allowed them to penetrate loopholes. Another means to see over the parapet was the trench periscope – in its simplest form, just a stick with two angled pieces of mirror at the top and bottom. A number of armies made use of the periscope rifle, which enabled soldiers to snipe at the enemy without exposing themselves over the parapet, although at the cost of reduced shooting accuracy. The device is most associated with Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli, where the Turks held the high ground.

Dugouts of varying degrees of comfort were built in the rear of the support trench. British dugouts were usually 2.5 to 5 m (8 to 16 ft) deep. The Germans, who had based their knowledge on studies of the Russo-Japanese War, made something of a science out of designing and constructing defensive works. They used reinforced concrete to construct deep, shell-proof, ventilated dugouts, as well as strategic strongpoints. German dugouts were typically much deeper, usually a minimum of 4 m (12 ft) deep and sometimes dug three stories down, with concrete staircases to reach the upper levels. Trenches were never straight but were dug in a zigzagging or stepped pattern, with all straight sections generally kept less than a dozen meters. Later, this evolved to have the combat trenches broken into distinct fire bays connected by traverses. While this isolated the view of friendly soldiers along their own trench, this ensured the entire trench could not be enfiladed if the enemy gained access at any one point; or if a bomb, grenade, or shell landed in the trench, the blast could not travel far.



Above, aerial view of opposing trench lines between Loos and Hulluch, July 1917. German trenches at the right and bottom, British at the top-left.

Very early in the war, British defensive doctrine suggested a main trench system of three parallel lines, interconnected by communications trenches. The point at which a communications trench intersected the front trench was of critical importance, and it was usually heavily fortified. The front trench was lightly garrisoned and typically occupied in force only during "stand to" at dawn and dusk. Between 65 and 90 m (70 and 100 yd) behind the front trench was located the support (or "travel") trench, to which the garrison would retreat when the front trench was bombarded. Between 90 and 270 meters (100 and 300 yd) further to the rear was located the third reserve trench, where the reserve troops could amass for a counter-attack if the front trenches were captured. This defensive layout was soon rendered obsolete as the power of artillery grew; however, in certain sectors of the front, the support trench was maintained as a decoy to attract the enemy bombardment away from the front and reserve lines. Fires were lit in the support line to make it appear inhabited and any damage done immediately repaired. Temporary trenches were also built. When a major attack was planned, assembly trenches would be dug near the front trench. These were used to provide a sheltered place for the waves of attacking troops who would follow the first waves leaving from the front trench. "Saps" were temporary, unmanned, often dead-end utility trenches dug out into no-man's land.

Dotson's Other Note: "They fulfilled a variety of purposes, such as connecting the front trench to a listening post close to the enemy wire or providing an advance «jumping-off» line for a surprise attack. When one side's front line bulged towards the opposition, a salient was formed. The concave trench line facing the salient was called a "re-entrant." Large salients were perilous for their occupants because they could be assailed from three sides.*

*salient—a piece of land or section of fortification that juts out to form an angle

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

Australian Light Horseman Using A Periscope Rifle-1915



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

My first memories of Christmas are at the far end of a dirt road outside St. Louis, Oklahoma where my father with his newly minted petroleum engineering degree from Oklahoma State University was the Assistant Plant Manager at the Sinclair Gas and Gas Products Plant. We lived outside of St. Louis (population seven) in one of two company houses across the dirt road from Sinclair Oil Plant (#12 I think) with the Plant Manager next door. I was the only kid there and until I was four years old that was my little world.

My first Christmas memory is of a guy in a red suit and a white beard coming through the front door with a bag of toys and I couldn't help but notice that he had on muddy work boots and smelled of Ethyl Mercaptan; everything in my world had muddy boots and smelled of Ethyl Mercaptan and it wasn't until we moved to Laurel, Mississippi when I was five that I found out the whole world did not smell of Ethyl Mercaptan. Some of it smelled like wet fur which was spewed out of the stacks at the Masonite factory. All in all I'd prefer the Ethyl Mercaptan.

We moved to Laurel where my father built his own plant from the ground up and I started kindergarten where I learned my first Christmas carol which contained some very disturbing lyrics regarding Santa Clause.

He sees you when you're sleeping

He knows when you're awake

And not only that, he is coming to town!

From Oklahoma to Laurel Sears

I queried my dear mother on the whereabouts of this omnipresent fellow Santa Clause her response was vague. "He's everywhere," she said, and that was where things stood until my suspicions about this traveling man were realized when I walked into the Laurel Sears Store and there was the same guy in the same suit who had been to my house in outback Oklahoma! He wasn't wearing muddy boots but I still declined numerous invitations to sit on his lap because I had learned from the same song that he's watching me all the time and in fact might even know what I'm thinking – that part was unclear.

He knows if you've been bad or good

So be good for goodness sake!

O! You better watch out!

My confusion was multiplied when a few days later we were driving through the black section of Laurel and I saw a guy in the same red suit walking down the street except unlike the Sears Santa and Oklahoma Santa he had black skin and muddy boots. This was confusing on two fronts; first, how could it be the same guy!? Did he shape shift as he walked through different parts of town? And why was he walking when I had it on good authority he flew around the world in single night in a flying sleigh? Something was not right. The whole thing was troubling.



Sign in St. Louis, Oklahoma.

Sleepless nights

I couldn't sleep for weeks leading up to Christmas as I lay in bed trying to summon up visions of sugar plums to keep away any bad thoughts because at five I wasn't sure what those were but I was pretty sure visions of sugar plums were okay even if I wasn't really sure what sugar plums were.

I would strain my ears into the darkness to try and hear his arrival so I could see him while he was seeing me and would occasionally flip on the night light because after all he might arrive early and I wanted to thank him for the toys and ask him if it was really necessary to follow me around and read my mind but he never showed. I supposed him to be omnipotent from anywhere in the world and he probably didn't like hanging around Laurel because of that wet fur smell so why was he here?

Coming through the side door

I expressed concern that our house in Laurel lacked a chimney but I was assured Santa could get in the house somehow and his presence in the area was confirmed when on Christmas night right there on television the local weatherman located him on radar sleight and all flying through the night sky above Jackson on his way down and sure enough the next morning two of the three cookies we left were gone and the bicycle I had been thinking about – but had not told Santa directly – was parked next to the Christmas tree. I liked the bike but I still didn't like the fact that this guy knew where I was and what I was thinking. That was pretty much where things stood until we moved to Portland and when I walked into Padre Staples Mall there he was again, in the same suit only with black mud-less boots. By now I had learned to push the idea that he knew what I was thinking and "seeing" me when I was sleeping to the back of my head in order to keep the toys coming on Christmas morning but I had yet to sit on his lap due to his mindreading proclivities yet year after year he kept bringing me stuff I had only thought about so why mess with a good thing, right?



Island Santa

That's about how things stood until this week when I found this fellow, Island Santa, and now everything is copacetic in Santa Land. He assured me that while he can in fact read my mind he finds it to be a shallow wasteland hardly worth reading and I'm okay with that. So as I settle down now for a long winter's nap I still have a few sugar plums dancing around in there but nothing that I fear will get in the way of a bicycle under the tree. So if any kids out there are afraid of Santa like I was just think to yourself what you want for Christmas and you will be fine, but I found that for some reason it seemed to help if I mentioned it to my parents. And try to avoid pouting and crying if possible.

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Access Road work



Photo by Dale Rankin

The work to replace the roadway of the Access Road on SPID between Commodores Drive and Jackfish Avenue is moving forward with completion scheduled no later than March, 2024, according to the city bid

documents for the project. The old asphalt surface is being replaced with concrete and a sidewalk will be placed adjacent to the roadway.

Homes cont. from A1

Based on standard fines for the alleged offenses could total just over \$30,000. Each citation by city code compliance officers carries a fine of \$500.

Mostaghasi said he built a total of fifteen STR houses across the city with three of them on Padre Island and neighbors at the three STR properties, 13938 Longboat Dr., 13950 Blackbeard Dr., and 15621 Finistere St., have complained of excessive noise, trash, and parking problems at each of the locations leading to the citations by city inspectors. The number of citations issued in response to the STR houses has escalated through 2023 as reflected in city records in

what city officials called “a greatly-elevated enforcement effort.” Island neighborhoods are the only area of the city where STR are prohibited under the terms of a 2021 city ordinance passed by the Corpus Christi City Council banning leasing a house in a neighborhood zoned for strictly residential use for less than thirty days on Padre Island. The ban does not apply to any other area of the city, it also allows STR in areas zoned multi-family. The ban applies primarily to homes on the west side of SPID with most areas on the east (Gulf of Mexico) side of SPID allowed to rent as STR. A final hearing on the fines will be held in Municipal Court but no court date has been set.

Real Estate cont. from A1

By Cindy Molnar
Realtor
Coldwell Banker Island, Realtors

Interior Lot Homes Sold

14229 Sea Pines Drive
15814 Lindo Drive
15230 Reales Drive
15505 Finistere Street
13805 Primavera Drive

15342 Sabre Drive
14234 San Felipe Drive
40 Interior Lot Homes Listed From
\$339,900.00 to \$789,000.00

Waterfront Homes Sold

15638 Cuttysark Street
15301 Bowsprit Court
13922 El Socorro Loop
13842 Hawksnest Bay Drive

54 Waterfront Homes Listed From



St. Andrew by the Sea

A Monthly Prayer for Peace

A small group of St Andrew by the Sea Parishioners meet every First Saturday of the Month in the Rosary Garden at 8:30 a.m. to pray for peace to come to our families, our country and our world as was the request of Our Lady of Fatima when she appeared in Portugal to three children in 1917.

This month being December our prayer intention is “to Keep Christ in Christmas”.

Our small group began meeting during the Pandemic when we felt isolated from each other and in some cases from our church. We received permission from Father Hanh to meet outside in our Rosary Garden to pray on the First Saturday of every month, we were very careful to social distance back then. We welcome all who would like to come pray with us.

Our next First Saturday Prayer will be January 6, 2024 at 0830 in the St. Andrew Rosary Garden. If you need more information call or text Pat at (503) 804-9931.

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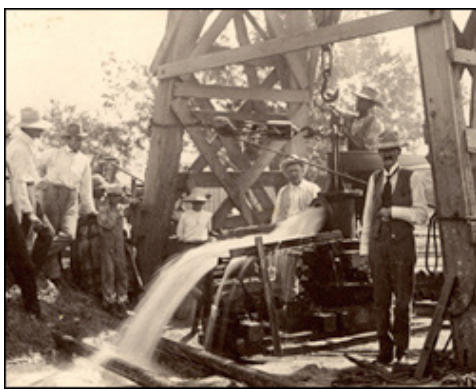
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Hisotry cont. from A1



Artesian wll on the King Ranch

Longhorn cattle grazing for the taking on the South Texas plains and the cowboys rounded them up and pushed them up the trails to market.

The Great Die Up

By the onset of the 1900s barbed wire had ended the days of free ranging and cattle drives. Getting cattle to market was still hard but Robert Kleberg, then the manager of the King Ranch, had a bold plan. Kleberg had come to the attention of the ranch’s founder Richard King as opposing council at a trial in Corpus Christi and became King’s attorney and eventually his son-in-law when he married King’s youngest daughter Alice Gertrudis King in 1886, the year after King’s death. He proved an able leader and hit liquid gold when he drilled in a successful artesian well on the ranch in 1899 at the end of a decade- long drought so bad it was known as “The Great Die Up.” Now with ample water and stock what the ranch needed was a way to move cattle to market. What the ranch needed was a railroad. Kleberg pitched his idea to Henrietta King, Richard King’s widow and soon the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railroad was born.

From Sinton to Brownsville

The idea was to connect the ranch to the existing rail lines which then only came as far south as Sinton in San Patricio County. Known as the “Brownie” the line would run 200 miles of track across the Wild Horse Desert from Sinton, through Nueces, Hidalgo, and Cameron counties to Brownsville. It was the first time Corpus Christi and Brownsville would be connected by any route other than by water. It was a game-changing move that would connect South Texas and its products to the rest of the U.S. and Mexico through a rail bridge at Laredo.

It was intended that the railroad form one of the sections of a continuous line from Chicago, St. Louis, and Memphis to Baton Rouge, Houston, Brownsville, Tampico, and Mexico City. Initial capital for the company was set at \$1,000,000. The principal place of business was Kingsville, which didn’t exist when the railroad was formed so the company had temporary offices in Corpus Christi at the time of the charter. Members of the first board of directors were Robert J. Kleberg and Arthur E. Spohn, both of Corpus Christi; Robert Driscoll, Jr., Uriah Lott, and Richard King, all of Nueces County; John G. Kenedy, James B. Wells, Francisco Yturria, and Thomas Carson, all of Cameron County. Uriah Lott was named first president of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico. Nearly one hundred miles of the line would run across King Ranch property. The railroad was built by a syndicate, the principal members being Benjamin F. Yoakum and his associates, managed by the

St. Louis Trust Company. The syndicate had cooperation all along the line in land donations and cash bonuses, receiving in all 90,000 acres and \$190,000.

The birth of Kingsville

Henrietta King put 75,000 acres into the project in Cameron and Kleberg counties plus a section of land – 640 acres – to found the town of Kingsville three miles due east of the ranch house in the heart of the El Rincon de Santa Gertrudis section of the ranch. Streets were named King and Santa Gertrudis Avenue, Nettie, Ella, Richard, Alice and Lee streets were named after her five children in the order of the their birth. Henrietta’s name came next, then Kenedy Avenue, Kleberg, Ragland, Caesar, Armstrong, and Wells. All part of the King extended family.

Henrietta owned the Kingsville Lumber Company, the town’s first business. The sale of each lot paid her fifty dollars and each bill of sale included a clause forbidding the sale of alcohol – there would be no saloons in Mrs. King’s town. Next she donated land for the construction of the Presbyterian Church; her father had been a Presbyterian missionary in Missouri and Tennessee. The Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Catholics came next.

“Thank goodness it’s here!”

The railroad opened South Texas to commerce with the America’s heartland and the world. By December, 1907 the line from Brownsville to Houston, by way of Corpus Christi was complete. When the first train rolled into the new town of Kingsville the 71 year-old Henrietta King was there in her wagon.

“Thanks goodness, it is here! she said. She was issued Complimentary Pass No. 1 and Complementary Pass No. 2 went to Mrs. R.J. Kleberg & Children. After school in Corpus Christi each Friday the Kleberg children went to the station and boarded a caboose hooked to the engine for the ride to their home on the King Ranch.

The run to Brownsville took nine hours, down from the forty hours required to make the journey by stagecoach. The train ran six days per week - Henrietta forbade trains to run on the Sabbath. Freight trains ran three days per week. Loading pens along the route took King Ranch cattle to market. Soon enough the Kingsville Publishing Company brought in the town’s first newspaper, still in business today, followed by Kingsville Power and Light Company, and ice and milling companies. Then when Sea Island Long Staple cotton came along the Gulf Coast Gin Company was founded to mill it. All under the ownership of King and Kleberg.

Singing rails

When President William Howard Taft came town to kick off the Corps of Engineers work on the deepwater port he lunched at Henrietta’s house on Broadway. The St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico became part of the Missouri Pacific Lines on January 1, 1925, but continued to operate as a separate company until it was merged into the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company on March 1, 1956. At the end of 1955 the company owned or leased ninety-eight diesel units and 4,377 cars. In that year it had passenger revenues of \$461,554 and freight earnings of \$15,759,273.

South Texas as we know it was off and running, riding the singing rails of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway.



Saint Louis, Brownsville, Mexico
Gulf Coast Line depot at Brazoria.

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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

Johnny Unitas-NFL Quarterback Part 3

Dotson's Note: After once again finishing second in the Western Conference in 1966, the Colts rebounded to finish 11-1-2 in 1967 tying the Los Angeles Rams for the NFL's best record. In winning his third MVP award from the AP and UPI in 1967 (and his second from the NEA), Unitas had a league-high 58.5 completion percentage and passed for 3,428 yards and 20 touchdowns.

He openly complained about having tennis elbow and he threw eight interceptions and only three touchdown passes in the final five games. Once again, the season ended in loss for the Colts, as they were shut out of the newly instituted four-team NFL playoff after losing the divisional tiebreaker to the Rams, a 34-10 rout in the regular season finale.



In the final game of the 1968 preseason, the muscles in Unitas's arm were torn when he was hit by a member of the Dallas Cowboys defense. Unitas wrote in his autobiography that he felt his arm was initially injured by the use of the "night ball" that the NFL was testing for better TV visibility during night games.

In a post-game interview the previous year, he noted having constant pain in his elbow for several years prior. He would spend most of the season sitting on the bench. The Colts still marched to a league-best 13-1 record behind backup quarterback and ultimate 1968 NFL MVP Earl Morrall. Although he was injured through most of the season, Unitas came off the bench to play in Super Bowl III, the famous game where Joe Namath guaranteed a New York Jets win despite conventional wisdom. Unitas's insertion was a desperation move in an attempt to retrieve dominance of the NFL over the upstart AFL.

Although the Colts won an NFL Championship in 1968, they lost the Super Bowl to the AFL Champion New York Jets, thus becoming the first-ever NFL champions that were not also deemed world champions. Unitas helped put together the Colts' only score, a touchdown late in the game. Unitas also drove the Colts into scoring position following the touchdown and successful onside kick, but head coach Don Shula eschewed a field goal attempt, which (if successful) would have cut the Jets' lead to 16-10. Despite not playing until late in the third quarter, he still finished the game with more passing yards than the team's starter, Earl Morrall.

After an off-season of rehabilitation on his elbow, Unitas rebounded in 1969, passing for 2,342 yards and 12 touchdowns with 20 interceptions. But the Colts finished with a disappointing 8-5-1 record and missed the playoffs.

In 1970, the NFL and AFL had merged into one league, and the Colts moved to the new American Football Conference, along with the Cleveland Browns and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He threw for 2,213 yards and 14 touchdowns while leading the Colts to an 11-2-1 season. In their first rematch with the Jets, Unitas and Namath threw a combined nine interceptions in a 29-22 Colt's win. Namath threw 62 passes and broke his hand on the final play of the game, ending his season.



Unitas threw for 390 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions in AFC playoff victories over the Cincinnati Bengals and the Oakland Raiders. In Super Bowl V against the Dallas Cowboys, he was knocked out of the game with a rib injury in the second quarter, soon after throwing a 75-yard touchdown pass (setting a then-Super Bowl record) to John Mackey. However, he had also thrown two interceptions before his departure from the game. Earl Morrall came in to lead the team to a last-second, 16-13 victory.

In 1971, Unitas split playing time with Morrall, throwing only three touchdown passes. He started both playoff games, a win over the Cleveland Browns that sent the Colts to the AFC Championship game against the Miami Dolphins, which they lost by a score of 21-0. Unitas threw three interceptions in the game, one of which was returned for a touchdown by safety Dick Anderson.

The 1972 season saw the Colts declining. After losing the season opener, Unitas was involved in the second and final regular season head-to-head meeting with "Broadway" Joe Namath. The first was in 1970 (won by the Colts, 29-22). The last meeting took place on September 24, 1972, at Memorial Stadium. He threw for 376 yards and three touchdowns, but Namath upstaged him again, bombing the Colts for 496 yards and six touchdowns in a 44-34 Jets victory – their first over Baltimore since the 1970 merger. After losing four of their first five games, the Colts fired head coach Don McCafferty, and benched Unitas.



One of the more memorable moments in football history came on Unitas's last game in a Colts uniform at Memorial Stadium, in a game against the Buffalo Bills. He was not the starter for this game, but the Colts were blowing the Bills out by a score of 28-0 behind Marty Domres; Unitas entered the game due to the fans chanting, "We want Unitas!!!", and a plan devised by head coach John Sandusky to convince Unitas that the starting quarterback was injured. Unitas came onto the field and threw two passes, one of which was a long touchdown to wide receiver Eddie Hinton which would be his last pass as a Colt. The Colts won the game by a score of 35-7.

Unitas was traded from the Colts to the San Diego Chargers on January 20, 1973, in a transaction that originally had future considerations returning to Baltimore. The deal's only obstacle was the personal services contract he had signed with the Colts in 1970 which would have kept him employed within the organization on an annual salary of \$30,000 over ten years once his career as an active player ended.

Dotson's Other Note: The pact had been signed when the ballclub was owned by Carroll Rosenbloom who subsequently acquired the Los Angeles Rams on July 13, 1972, in a franchise swap with Robert Irsay. The deal was completed when the Chargers purchased that contract. Eager to sever all ties with the Colts, Unitas signed a new two-year contract with the Chargers on June 8, 1973. He succeeded John Hadl who had requested and was granted a trade to the Rams.

TO BE CONTINUED



By Andy Purvis

Busting it up the Middle

Comedian Richard Pryor was once asked how he would like to be remembered. He said, "I want people to look at my picture, remember, and laugh. I would like to leave some joy." This guy was always a pleasure to watch and a joy to have known. He was shorter than the program stated, with 44-inch thighs that resembled twin jet-engines. At 209 pounds, power was his forte. Built close to the ground like a fire hydrant, he could churn up defenses like a high-speed lawnmower. Undersized for a pro football player, his stats didn't measure his heart. His ticker weighed a ton. Handing this guy a football was like giving Wyatt Earp a handgun, LeBron James an outlet pass, or Mike Trout an extra strike; something incredible was about to happen. This guy ran tough; it was like trying to tackle a Pepsi machine. He simply sawed defensive linebackers in half at the line of scrimmage. He was never late to anything in his life including moving the chains for a first down. His job was to cut a path to the end zone for the running back or stop all oncoming traffic in the backfield, while keeping his quarterback standing upright and his uniform clean. Dallas Cowboy offensive guard, John Niland, once said, "If we needed three yards or less for a first down, we knew we had it. Give Robert the ball, and we had it. We'd block a yard and a half, and he'd get the other yard and a half on his own. It was a given." Robert Newhouse played like he had invented the fullback position. I can hear Verne Lundquist now, "There goes Newhouse busting it up the middle." His teammates called him "House."

Robert Fulton Newhouse was born on January 9, 1950, in Longview, Texas, and played football at nearby Galilee High School in Hallsville, Texas. Although he rushed for 200 yards and sometimes over 300 yards per game in high school, he was only recruited by one Division I school, the University of Houston. With Robert Newhouse running the ball, Houston finished 9-2 in 1969 and was ranked 12th in the nation. In 1970, Houston finished 8-3 and was ranked 19th. In 1971, before his senior season started at Houston, Newhouse cracked his pelvis in a car accident. He chose to play though the pain and propelled Houston to a 9-3 record and a ranking of 17th in the nation. Newhouse was selected Second-Team All-American by the Associated Press. Newhouse still holds the University of Houston's all-time rushing record for a single season with 1,757 yards. Newhouse broke many other school records, some of which still stand today. He had ten 100-yard games in a season (1971), sixteen 100-yard games in a career, and the most 200-yard games in a season, with three. Back when the College All-Stars played the Super Bowl Champions from the year before, Newhouse scored a touchdown against the Cowboys. I always wondered if that touchdown had anything to do with the Cowboys' drafting him. Robert Newhouse also played in the Hula Bowl and was inducted into the University of Houston's Athletics Hall of Honor in 1977. Robert Newhouse is also a member of the Texas Black Hall of Fame. Newhouse played 12 seasons under the "Man with the Hat" legendary Hall-of-Fame Coach Tom Landry. House was selected by the Cowboys in the second round of the 1972 NFL draft. He was given #44. During the 1973 season, House recorded his longest run from scrimmage, 54 yards, against the Philadelphia Eagles. He switched from halfback to fullback to replace a retiring Walt Garrison and became a starter in 1975. He would make his presence felt that year by leading the Cowboys in rushing with 930 yards and was listed ninth in the league with 4.4-yards per carry. By 1977, Tony Dorsett had been drafted and House became more of a blocking back for Dorsett and Calvin Hill. By 1980, Newhouse began splitting time in the backfield with Ron Springs. He would continue to play sparingly until he retired after the 1983 season.



Robert Newhouse

The play was called: "brown right, X-opposite shift, toss 38, halfback lead, fullback pass to Y." Dallas was leading 20-10 with seven minutes to go, in Super Bowl XII. The Denver Broncos had just fumbled and Dallas recovered the ball on the Broncos' 29-yard line. Coach Landry sensed that Denver was on the ropes and called for a trick play to seal the victory. Newhouse was nervous in the huddle. "I was worried because I had all this stickum on my hands," said Newhouse. "Preston Pearson handed me this rag, and I was in there, scrubbing it all. They'd seen us run the play right but not to the left, and so they didn't recognize it in time." At the snap, Newhouse took a pitch from quarterback Roger Staubach and began running to his left, as if he were going to run down the sideline. Instead, he stopped quickly, turned and threw back to the right, over the outstretched hands of Denver defensive back Steve Foley, hitting wide receiver Golden Richards in stride for a 29-yard touchdown. The Dallas Cowboys would go on to win their second Super Bowl title by a score of 27-10. Landry said after the game, "Newhouse's pass play won it for us." Robert Newhouse became the first running back to pass for a touchdown in Super Bowl history. "The thing I remember most about that halfback option play we ran against Denver," said former Cowboy personnel director Gil Brandt, "is that we ran it going left, and it's a lot harder to go left than right. During the week they must've practiced the play ten times, and he never completed it. And that was going right. Here it is going left, and he completed it."

Newhouse finished his Cowboy career with 4,784 yards rushing, 956 yards receiving and scored 31 touchdowns. He averaged over an astounding four yards per carry. He also participated in three Super Bowls during the 1970's (X, XII, and XIII). I believe he should be in the Dallas Cowboys Ring of Honor.

Robert Newhouse suffered a stroke in 2010. Doctors had been treating him and hoping he would become healthy enough to withstand the surgery required for a heart transplant. Newhouse was confined to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, at the time of his death. "My dad's last days were terrible," said his son, Rodd Newhouse. Former Dallas Cowboy, Robert Newhouse, died from complications of heart disease on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. He was but 64 years old. He is survived by his wife Nancy, twin daughters Dawnyel and Shawntel, two sons Roderick and Reggie, a former wide receiver for the Arizona Cardinals. "House was a great football player," said Roger Staubach. "Off the field, he was a great man, kind and caring, solid as a rock." Motivational speaker Jim Rohn once said, "Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time." The only thing that could keep Robert Newhouse out of the end zone of life was time. Come on, admit it. He was the kind of guy you wished you had on your team.

Andy Purvis
www.purvisbooks.com




Show us your stuff!

Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com






By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

Well, I take it back folks. Looks like we will not be having the Island Strategic Action Committee meeting next week. Because of the holiday and the shuffling of schedules due to multiple city council meetings, we would have failed to make quorum. It’s always a tough meeting to get together at the time of the year, but we will be back in session after the New Year. Things are still moving forward, namely the Island Mobility Plan and the design of Commodores Park. Island liaison Roger left the mobility survey open for a few more weeks, and they are compiling the data. The draft Commodores Park design should be available here in the next week and we’ll get those here in the paper when they become available.

Helping the kids

Julia and Chad at My Mimi’s Kitchen OTB in Flour Bluff continue to amaze me how they have become huge supporters of the local community. If you missed them on the news the other day, they have a Christmas tree set up in the restaurant with cards that have children’s names on them. These kids are underprivileged, being shuffled around in foster homes, or have parents that are in jail. Basically, their Christmas morning scenarios look dim. They teamed up with Nate Gonzalez with Nate’s Next Kid Up, a non-profit that helps kids in foster care.

This effort has turned into a true groundswell that is gaining partners and momentum every day. CASA of the Coastal Bend jumped on, HEB donated \$1500, Fun trackers, the Hooks, Chick Fil A, and numerous local businesses have donated to the cause. You can get involved with the effort by going to My Mimi’s Kitchen and getting a name and contact information off the tree, and Julia says that because the response has been overwhelming, that they will also put more names on the tree if you know of a family struggling. Their Breakfast with Santa event is next Saturday the 16th, also plan on attending that. You have your marching orders, get going.

A new Island

History will be made on Friday during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Don Patricio Bridge. While the water won’t be flowing until a final agreement is reached, it will be one of the last steps in a long-time coming project that many people have worked on over the years. I never got any

feedback from anyone regarding what we’re going to name the new Island once the water is officially flowing. I’m referring to the area of land between Packery Channel and the Don Patricio Bridge. Since we have Padre Island to the south of that, maybe we could call it Madre Island? Ha!

One half hour before sunrise

The second part of the duck season will crank up again this weekend with the Winchester and Remington alarm clocks set to go off around 6:40 a.m. (one half hour before sunrise). We made it down to the cabin and got the duck blind put in the water but didn’t get it framed in or furred out or palm fronds put on it. I guess we’re not really serious about duck hunting. Maybe it will be done by spring.

Drive south for pomps

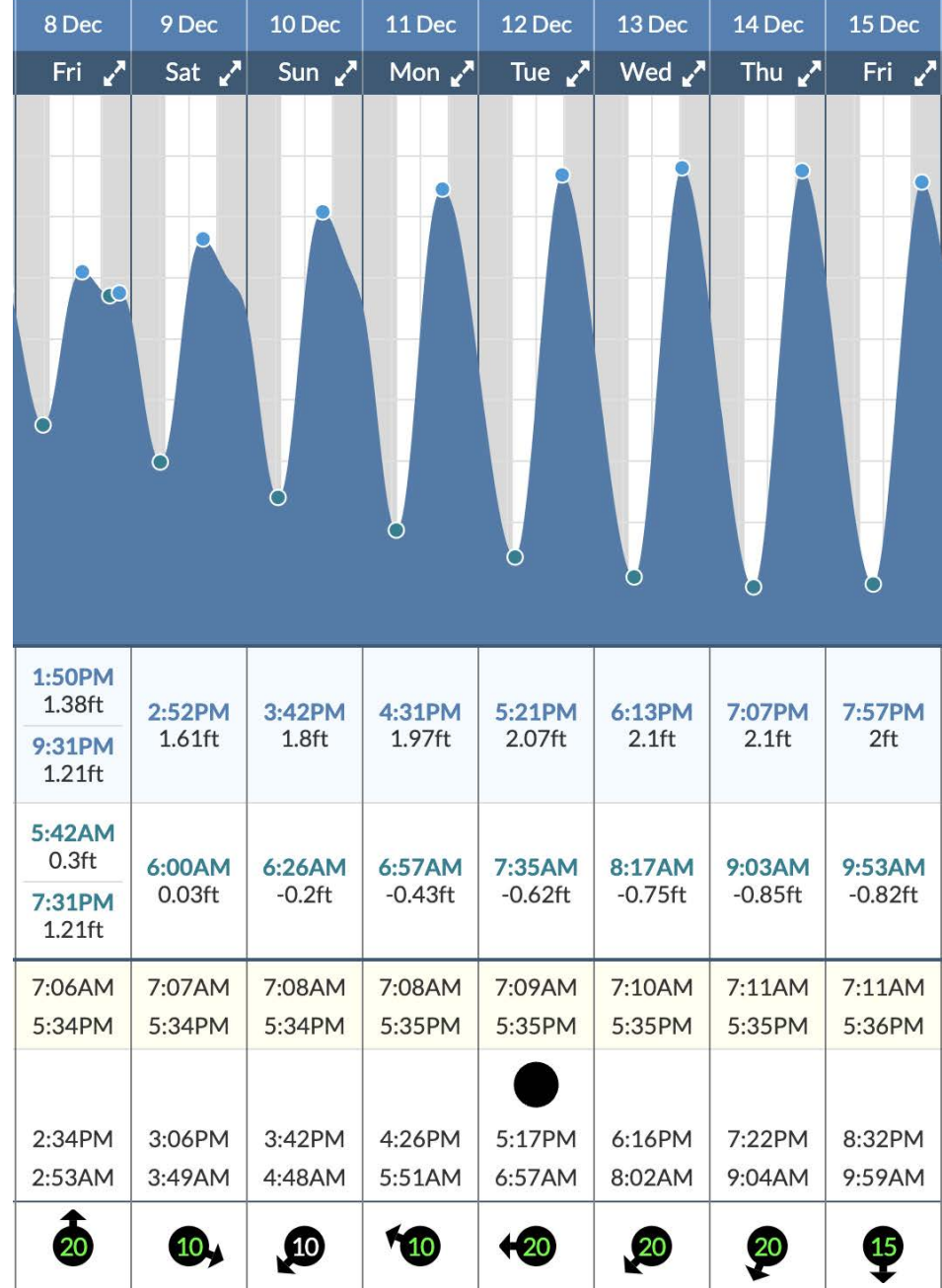
Curtis made it down the beach the other day and finally got into some pompano in the lower 30’s. Seems that they are hit or miss up around these parts, and you have to get serious and drive south if you want to get some fish. I must imagine that the shelling is pretty good down south right now as well. I will have to live vicariously through Nick and other folks who can get away from the desk, and I encourage you loyal readers to get out if you can. It’s a magical time of year down the beach.

Well folks, it’s that time of the season where there are Christmas parties it seems every day. Libations are a large part of some of these, but so are the police with their blue light specials. Make sure you have Uber or Lyft on your phones and grab a ride so everyone arrives alive. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I’ll see you next week On the Rocks.



Early Pompano print by Islander Mardi Ros.

Tides of the Week



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



Stud REDFISH! Man handled on this SHAMANNO TANGLE PROOF COMPUTER CURADO CB!, and a G-LOOMIS ROD. THE GLOW/chartruse DOA 5.5” JERK SHAD GOT THE STRIKE.

Outdoorsmen can be the hardest lot of folks to get Christmas gifts for! Make it easy this year, we all want our loved ones to say “WOW HOW DID YOU KNOW THATS WHAT I WANTED!!”

Roy’s bait and Tackle is a fisherman’s dream store, and full of the right stuff not just filler. You can walk in and tell any of the people that work there what kind of fishing you are interested in and they can help you find the right stuff. Clothing for all seasons, and lots of stuff for the house too. One can find everything for the LADY ANGLER there from clothing and gear to top of the line ladies fishing rods. Bringing your lady into your favorite sport will secure a lifetime of quality time together. Look at the WATERLOO SALINITY RODS! These light action rods are my favorite. They come in pink and light sea foam green. They have very comfortable grips and their light action and weight make it easy for lady anglers to fish with. Some quality sun glasses are a perfect choice for her stocking as well.

Marker 37

Marker 37 Marina is on The Island and full of clothing, tackle, and cool stocking stuffers. You can find cute one of a kind PADRE ISLAND keepsakes to send out to friends and family out of town. I think the best thing to pick up at MARKER 37 MARINA for your loved fisherman is a GIFT CERTIFICATE !! They can get tackle, bait, ice, or gas all year long!! That’s an ACE IN THE HOLE!!

Christmas Gift Trips
Every year I am blessed to help make someone’s special person very happy. The CHRISTMAS GIFT TRIPS I sell each year are so much more than a one day trip. Every person who steps on my boat leaves with a world of knowledge and respect for the Laguna Madre/Baffin Bay and the fishing in it. They learn how to find fish on their own in their boat, how to drive their boat better cast farther, balance their tackle set up, select the right lure for the right conditions. We talk about what birds feed on what bait fish and how that shows us when and where to fish. I explain the turns of the season and the migrations that our gamefish species follow. This and much more all while bringing fish to hand. As I roll through the years I see our greatest memories shown at our goodbye parties. Most of these are those memories when we are in the outdoors, hunting and fishing builds great people, and more important, it brings and keeps us together in spirit.

Just give me a call I can help you pick out that perfect gift, I’ve got plenty of suggestions and can share a day on the water with you as well. Let’s get in the Christmas Spirit and remember the real meaning of the holiday.
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Nature Notes

Peregrine Falcon

by Taylor Bennett



Juvenile female Peregrine Falcon observed on the beach on Matagorda Peninsula at Matagorda Beach, TX. Photo taken on October 13, 2023 by Taylor Bennett.

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's avian research team is monitoring for non-breeding shorebirds along the Upper Texas Coast from now until the end of March. Our main focus are those species that are classified as endangered, threatened, or of high concern due to habitat loss and climate change. There are six target species we monitor: Piping Plover, Red Knot, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, American Oystercatcher, and Black Skimmer. The sites we monitor are Matagorda Beach, Bryan Beach, Quintana Beach, Surfside Beach, and Follet's Island. During monitoring, we tend to see other migrants along the beach. One such species we often see this time of year is the Peregrine Falcon.

Peregrine Falcons are the most widely distributed falcon species in the world and can pretty much live in any habitat you can think of. The only places it doesn't exist are Antarctica and some oceanic islands. Its name is fitting because "peregrine" means wanderer. We often see them along the Upper Texas Coast during the Fall and Winter often coinciding with fall songbird migration.

We often observe them hunting along the salt cedar on Matagorda Peninsula and so far this season we have spotted at least seven during our non-breeding shorebird surveys. They are described as being a large falcon with bluish-gray body, whitish-gray belly with black spots and barring, and bright yellow legs. Its most distinguished feature is its large head with large black facial stripes on the side and back of neck which looks as if it is wearing a helmet.

Juvenile peregrine falcons are browner in color, have streaked bellies, bluish gray green legs, and the "helmet" isn't quite formed yet, but instead have sideburns on the sides of their heads. It is hard to distinguish between male and female in terms of plumage; however, they can be distin-

guished by their size. The females are larger and heavier than males.

Peregrine Falcon's main prey is birds and can account for consuming 450 North American bird species and over 2,000 bird species worldwide. Big or small, the Peregrine Falcon eats it all from large Sandhill Crane to tiny hummingbirds. Occasionally, Peregrine Falcons also eat bats and steal rodents and fish from other raptors.

Peregrine Falcon are extremely strong and fast fliers that can average around 25 to 34 miles per hour just cruising, 69 miles per hour when in pursuit, and up to 200 miles per hour when it performs its special move, the spectacular hunting stoop, from heights over one kilometer. Not even the fastest roller coaster in the world can compete with that.

Unlike most raptor and falcon species, Peregrine Falcons don't kill prey using their talons. Instead, they strike at the neck, instantly severing their prey's spinal cord using a structure called a tomial tooth while in the air. Its tomial tooth can also easily break long bones of wings and legs of smaller prey. Peregrine Falcon also consume small amounts of sand, gravel, and stones to help clean their stomach and help break down prey. Whatever is not digested, such as feathers and bones, is regurgitated as pellets.

The Peregrine Falcon's current conservation status is classified as least concern, but they are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. They were actually declared endangered from 1950 to 1970 from a population crash due to DDT poisoning. We are glad that their populations are back up, because this is an amazing bird! On behalf of Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, thanks for reading.



Heros of the day. This pelican had three fish hooks in him. Beach Operations removed them. Pic By Evelyn Pless Schberth

Going Native

Engineering Vegetation

By Ed Proffitt



Engineers modify often aspects of systems to devise solutions to different types of problems (e.g., suspension bridges, MRI technologies of imaging for disease or damage, communication methodologies, etc.). In the "good old days" engineering students on campus could be distinguished from others by the size of the slide ruler that they wore in a scabbard on their belts. Now, it's probably by the size or power of the laptop or tablet that they carry.

Not many people think about ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus* spp) as engineers, but in the "ecosystem sense" that's exactly what they are, along with prairie dogs, gophers, etc. In professional ecology-speak ecosystem engineers manipulate the abiotic (soil) and biotic (vegetation) environments in which they live and influence a host of other species in the process. Many of these small mammals will dig multiple shallow burrows at a time and use one as a primary residence and the others as bolt holes when a predator is around. In our area, ground squirrel burrows tend to be a bit over a foot in diameter and often have a mound of soil recycled from depths maybe a bit less than a foot in height. While some people consider this an intrusion on their green postage stamp non-native grass lawns, I like the little guys. In natural, native plant, grasslands (and lawns!) vari-

ous ground squirrels and similar burrowers the overturned soil can bring nutrients and buried seeds to the surface and promote biodiversity. Larger burrowers, like badgers, can provide nesting sites for burrowing owls in mix-grass prairie ecosystems and prairie dogs can improve nutritional quality of plants for grazing bison by increasing plant diversity. While there are few or no local studies that I came across while reading, the Richardson's ground squirrels in the Lake Manitoba grasslands were found to affect vegetation community structure not by bringing different suites of seeds to the surface, but by influencing which plant species germinated. This was a study of paired ground squirrel mound and human (experimentally-caused) soil disturbances (see Current Zoology 2020 volume 66: pages 219-226 for more details). Here, we've seen them hunted successfully by great blue herons, hawks, and likely coyotes. Another benefit is that my cats are fascinated by them on the occasions that they burrow near a cat-perch window. Like many wild mammals some of the burrowing species can be disease vectors but that doesn't appear to be a problem locally. All in all, these small creatures call the Island their home the same as we do, and their presence should be encouraged where possible and appropriate in order for us all to keep Going Native.

Padre Island Holiday Art & Farmers' Market

December 14, 4-8pm
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Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Dr. Melody Guzeldere “Dr. G” has been the owner of the Animal Clinic of Flour Bluff for seven years. She will be moving her practice into the newly built clinic at the corner of Flour Bluff Drive and Glenoak on Tuesday, December 12th. The clinic will be closed Friday through Monday for the move. Dr. G and her husband Sgt. Altan are Islanders. For an appointment call 937-2648.



The Padre Isles Property Owners Association board meeting will be held at the Wyndham Resort on Tuesday, December 12th 5:30 pm. The engineering consultant Anchor QEA is expected to have a full report on the canal connection. All POA members are invited and I will be there to find out why they are not opening the dam dam.

Kustom Ink Tattoo Studio in the Loma Alta Plaza near 1st Community Bank has closed. South Texas Prime Design Group that was next door moved to an in town location. The Magnolia Gelato Shop is still open it was just closed for a longer than expected period of time during Thanksgiving. They open daily at 2 pm.

The December Yard of the Month belongs to Glen and Dianna Vonda at 14141 Palo Seco. Their 1-year old front river rock garden is lushly planted with Texas natives and adaptive plants and accented with natural stone bed borders. In their colorful back garden, planted along with other native plants, are an herb bed, dwarf olive shrubs, citrus trees, a loofah vine, and two yarn-bombed crepe myrtles. Thank you Glen and Dianna for opening your delightful garden to the Island Gardeners.

Hardknocks Sports Grill invites everyone to come to their New Year's Eve party with special guest the Chainlinks providing music 8 pm to midnight. There will be an open dance floor. Seating is limited so call 589-4398 to reserve your table for four. The cost is \$100 which includes a free appetizer of your choice and a bottle of champagne. Bar seats are \$15/person.



Padre Island Holiday Art & Farmers Market will be at the Briscoe Pavilion on Thursday, December 14th 4 - 8 pm.

Port Aransas Lighted Boat Parade will be Saturday, December 9th 6 - 8 pm. Afterward there will be a live Christmas Drone Show viewable from anywhere on the Marina and Roberts Point Park.



It's Ice Skating Time at the American Bank Center Monday, December 18th thru Saturday the 23rd noon - 9 pm. There will be holiday characters, family photo ops and holiday refreshments. Admission is \$12 with skates or \$8 if you have your own skates. Late night skate features a DJ.

Port Aransas Community Theater will host the energetic, instrument playing, comedic, sing-a-long trio known as Unrehearsed & Unashamed on Monday, December 18th 6 - 8 pm. It is free admission.

Next2Natural Turf is offering a give the gift of no mowing with a Moon special \$500 off installation. They also offer easy financing. Call 300-4671 for more info or free estimate.

The American Legion Post 229, the Islander Post meets at the Island Italian Restaurant. They are hosting a "Salute to Service 2024" dinner, concert and auction on January 20th at Marker 37 Marina. More information about the event, sponsorship packages, donation opportunities, or tickets can be found at: salutetoservice2024.betterworld.org. If you would like to join the post check out their Facebook page or email americanlegion-post0229@gmail.com.

The Corpus Christi Ballet presents The Nutcracker at Selena Auditorium on December 9-10 and 16-17. For more info call 882-4588.



Santa on the Beach will be in front of the seawall parking lot on Thursday, December 14th 4 - 6 pm. There will be pictures with Santa, hayride on the beach, bonfire and s'mores. KW Coastal Bend asks you to bring a small fleece blanket or beanie baby sized plushie to donate to the Driscoll Children's Hospital.

Surviving the Holidays two hour seminar for those grieving a loss will be at the Padre Island Baptist Church on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 pm. The registration fee is \$10. Go to griefshare.org/holidays.

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

Stairs were placed over the dredge pipe running down the beach from the Packery Channel wherever there are stairs along the seawall. Some of the pipe is under the sand.



Wind & Wave Watersports has Christmas specials with 20% off paddling kayaks, 20% off select skateboards, 20% off surf accessories with purchase of a surfboard and more. There is a storewide apparel/footwear sale where you can buy 1 and get 1 for a dollar on clearance racks. The store is located at the corner of Laguna Shores and the frontage road.

Random Stuff

Hardknocks Miami Dolphins on HBO has everyone mic'd including coaches, players, refs even Tyreek Hill's mom. What's great is that it is current. There are three episodes so far and I am on the second one that takes place Thanksgiving week and talks about them playing the first ever Friday game. So fun to listen to Coach McDaniel, who looks like a geek, talk like a coach.



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13910 Seahorse Ave \$132k
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3005 Saint Eustatius Way \$95k
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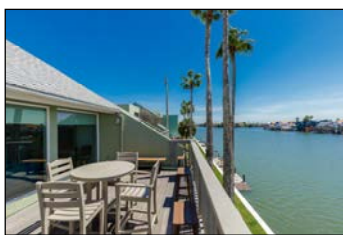
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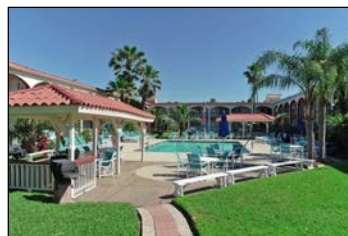
14010 Eaglesnest Bay 3/2.5/2 + bonus/flex room at 2,142 sq.ft. Open plan, new roof & HVAC in 2017. All new hurricane windows, 3M water treatment system. Large backyard w/room for a pool. **\$464,900**
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15005 Windward Dr. #214 Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath, 955 sq ft Surfside Condo walking distance from the beach/seawall. **\$237,000** Call **Madeline Casey** at 361-443-0687.



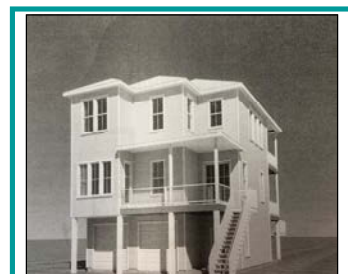
13965 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,502 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$585,000**. Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



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13953 Fortuna Bay #5
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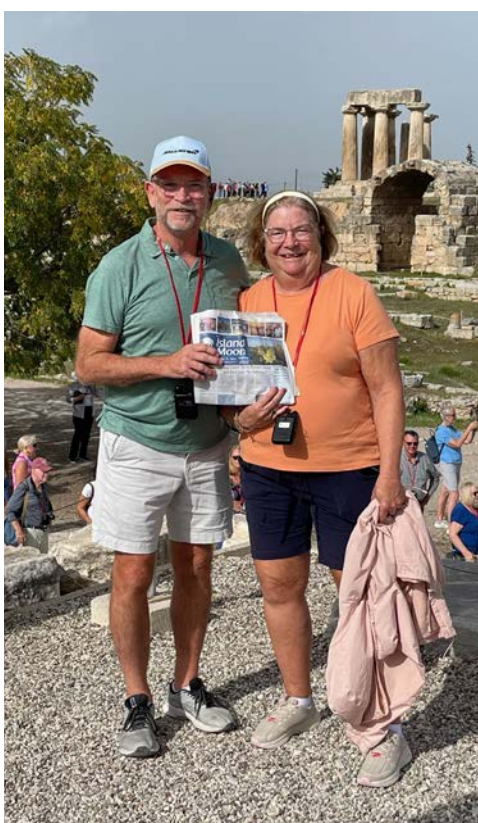
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Rev. Ken Ritchie and his wife took the Island Moon to Corinth, Greece.



Dr. Tim Tristin and Amanda Terry took the Island Moon on a trip to Key West.



Flour Bluff High School students received the Top Dog award for excellence in attendance, behavior, academics, respect, attitude, and work ethic by the Craft Training Center.
Left to right: Autumn Lairson – 11th Grade; Jackson Lindley – 11th Grade; Colton Scholl – 11th Grade. Far right is High School principal, Linda Medley.

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The November Padre Island Charity poker run benefitted CASA of the Coastal bend. Pictured from left to right are the folks that made it a huge success: Millie Stokes, Glenn Mier, Siobahn Allen, Lance Bradley and John Stokes. The Poker runs will pick up again in March of 2024. Nearly three thousand dollars was raised for CASA. Thank you to everyone who participated.

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Tis the season! We string lights, set up a tree, deck the halls, cue Christmas music, plan and attend gatherings, do the boat parade, and shop till we drop. It’s December! As one holiday song reminds us, “it’s the most wonderful time of the year!”

Yet, for some, it’s not the most wonderful time of the year. Rather, it’s more like a blue Christmas. Elvis Presley famously sang about lost love in *Blue Christmas*. Certainly, there are those ruing lost love this time of year. Yet, the blue Christmas I am talking about is different.

The Christmas season can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a beloved family member or close friend who died during the year; it may be the last holiday season a family member or friend will be alive; it may be a time that has always been difficult because of a traumatic life occurrence years ago; it may be a time of struggling with illness; it may be a time when unsettling change has brought chaos and uncertainty.

The constant refrains on radio and television, on the internet, in stores, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, remind many people of what they have lost. The anguish of grief and sadness can make us feel alone amid holiday cheer. While so many sing *Joy to the World* the experience of depression and anxiety, heartache and

grief sing a different song.

When this is the case, we need space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. We need to be surprised by joy.

If blue Christmas is a more apt description of this season for you, you need not suffer the aloneness of isolation. It will be okay. If this is the most wonderful time of the year for you, be present for your neighbors and friends with encouragement and comfort, kindness and compassion.

December is not a time to wish away the present in anticipation of Christmas. Rather, it is a time to live the present in hope and faith knowing that Christmas makes the fully embodied presence of joy and peace, healing and hope possible.

Speaking of joy, 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

News from the PIPOA

Canal Bridge Connection

In an effort to correct the most recent, published misinformation and gossip, the Board of Directors of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (“PIPOA”) provides the following information regarding the prospective canal connection. The PIPOA does NOT oppose connecting the PIPOA and Diamond Beach, LLC/ Whitecap NPI (“DBH”) canals. However, DBH has yet to provide the PIPOA with the information necessary to make such an agreement. To date, the PIPOA has received three different drawings of possible plans for canal connections proposed by DBH (including one which requires the agreement of Flour Bluff ISD) (but no final decision from DBH regarding which drawing they plan to utilize), no proposed procedures for construction, no environmental protection plan, no contamination mitigation plan, or other standard agreements necessary for such a project. At the last meeting of the board before the PIPOA election on March 24, 2023, the prior president, Marvin Jones, asked the board to consider a proposed agreement by DBH to attach the canals. The proposed agreement brought by DBH through Mr. Jones referenced multiple exhibits which were not included in the documents presented. The missing exhibits referenced critical items needed for the protection and benefit of the PIPOA, ie, the nuts and bolts of the canal connection agreement. For this reason, the Board refused to vote on the item in executive session. Since that time, the PIPOA has repeatedly asked DBH for these referenced exhibits. To date, DBH has failed to provide any draft or proposal for the terms of these critical exhibits. Earlier this year, DBH provided the PIPOA with several excerpts from the initial canal study they commissioned (performed by LJA Engineering at an unknown date). The study failed to consider the increased velocity of water flowing under the two existing bridges at Gypsy Street and Whitecap Boulevard. Water flow under these bridges would experience an increase associated with the canal narrowing at the bridges (from 100+ feet to 41 feet). The current board, including two members with experience in the area of hydrodynamics, has concerns regarding the scouring effect these velocities would cause. The conditions described in the LJA canal study would create flow in these areas once they encounter the narrowed canal under the bridges similar to a thumb on a water hose. This is the very reason that both Park Rd 22 and Commodores bridges are designed to have scour protection and 34-foot long sheet pile to prevent erosion. The design considerations for Whitecap and Gypsy bridges did not include channel flow, and do not have this protection. DBH agreed to review the expected flow velocities at these bridges only after the PIPOA indicated the absence of these data points from the initial flow study. The PIPOA does not have any direct information regarding the reason these critical

data points were left out of the initial flow study. Approximately two months ago, the PIPOA received the results of the second flow study, however under current agreements with DBH, the PIPOA is prohibited from disclosing those results (DBH paid for and owns this data). Therefore, the PIPOA has hired Anchor QEA to duplicate the flow study prepared by LJA and address additional concerns regarding storms of higher intensity (this is the first and only flow study prepared for the PIPOA). The PIPOA does not have any direct information regarding the investment of other parties and their intentions regarding the ongoing misinformation about the issue. This is not the first time that the Moon has shared incorrect information regarding the canal connection. The process of making an agreement was initially stalled when the editor of the Island Moon reported that DBH would cut through the PIPOA-owned bulkheads by the end of August. Following this report, efforts by the Board to establish a dialogue with DBH were ignored. Therefore, based on information shared by the Island Moon, the PIPOA was obligated to protect the property of its members through legal counsel. In September 2023, PIPOA Board representatives met with City Councilman Dan Suckley who was elected to represent Padre Island residents. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the concerns of the PIPOA regarding the canal connection, consequences to the residents, including the vulnerability of the two bridges at Gypsy and Whitecap. After that meeting, Board representatives received communications wherein Councilman Suckley pressured the Board to agree to the connection, stating City Engineers didn’t have any “real concerns” regarding the bridges. The Board immediately asked that Councilman Suckley provide these assurances in writing. To date, Councilman Suckley has refused to provide any written assurances or documentation of any kind generated by a city official or engineer regarding the vulnerability of these bridges. The PIPOA does not have any direct information regarding the intent of city officials regarding the withholding of such information or their relationship with the DBH developers. This is not just about the canals or the bulkheads. The daily lifeblood, access, commerce, police and fire rescue, for this community are at risk if the bridges are compromised. Clearly, the Board is concerned about the risk. We are concerned about the bridges that our members use on a daily basis. We are concerned about their structural integrity, potential condemnation, and failure. Yes, it is about obligations, real obligations, transparency, and honesty by the city, its officials, its consultants, and our local media. The current PIPOA Board is meeting its obligations to our members.



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 Pearl Oyster Bar

Begins at JFK Bridge continues through North Island canals

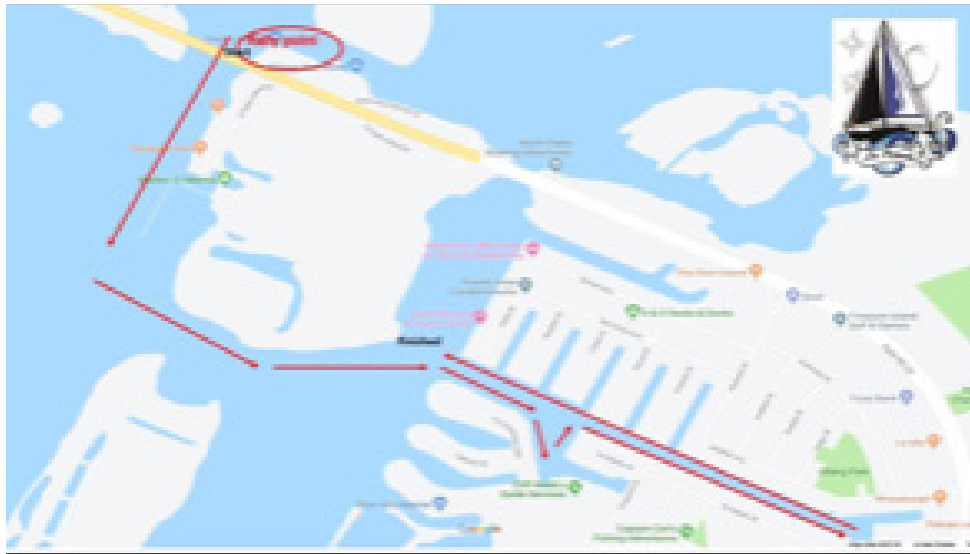
Lighted Boat Parade Watch Party

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

La Posada Lighted Boat Parade

Saturday, December 9

Begins 6 p.m. at Caravel Boat Ramp continues through South Island canals



Friday night Parade Route



Saturday night Parade Route

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Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
			20			21					22			
23	24							25				26		
27				28		29	30			31	32			
33			34		35				36					
				38					39			40	41	
				42			43				44			45
46	47	48				49				50		51		
52				53	54				55		56			
57			58				59	60						
61						62				63			64	65
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

Across

1. Desert traveler
6. Bride's throwaway
10. Big do
14. "William Tell," e.g.
15. Willing partner?
16. Load to bear
17. Robe fabric
18. Lamb cut
19. Seniors' group
20. Rock Hudson/Gina Lollobrigida '60s flick
23. Like some arrangements
25. Shaft with a blade
26. Island chain
27. Gambler's marker
28. Like some situations
31. "___ you the clever one?"
33. Spelling on TV
35. A pro might shoot it
36. Good name for a cook?
37. Reggie Jackson's '70s nickname
42. Taxing letters
43. Neither follower
44. Give forth
46. Tough to please
49. Pounded the Underwood
51. Haunted house sound
52. Best seller's number
53. Make zigzags, maybe
55. Expose to fresh air
57. Sandy Dennis/Anthony Newley '60s flick
61. Not a short story
62. Many miles away
63. Off kilter
66. Intense angers
67. Kind of phone
68. Model Cheryl
69. Minstrel's instrument
70. Koala hangout
71. Furnish with a fund

Down

1. Barracks bed
2. Mock, in a way
3. "Never on Sunday" actress Melina
4. Overthrow, perhaps
5. Neither clergyman nor professional
6. Chums
7. One of the reeds
8. Get into with ease
9. Gossipy sort
10. Brew topper
11. Make possible
12. Soup holder
13. Verve
21. Secretly weds
22. Inspiration for Yeats
23. Tailor's concern
24. Weaver's contraption
29. Civil ___
30. O. Henry specialty
32. Cartoonist Goldberg
34. Goddess in "Aida"
36. Mill site
38. Lovers' rendezvous
39. Whistle blower
40. Boarded a ship
41. Civil disorder
45. Stubbed item
46. Paleontologist's find
47. Easily tripped up
48. "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" singer
49. Double offer, informally
50. Future Kerry/Bush event
54. Do a legislator's job
56. Epoxy, for one
58. Slack off, with up
59. Crooner Jerry
60. Contemporary of Agatha
64. Id companion
65. Savannah-to-Baton Rouge dir.



Evelyn Pless Schubert

Police Blotter November 27 - December 4

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Suspicious Person
SPID/Marina Park Blvd. 6 p.m. December 4

Traffic
15 Traffic Stops
13300 block SPID 1 p.m. December 4 Crash
13300 block SPID 1 a.m. December 4 Crash/DWI

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person
14500 block SPID 2 a.m. December 2 Assault
Crimes against Property
14200 block Jackfish 9 a.m. November 30 Theft of Services
14200 block Jackfish Ave. 10 p.m. November 29 Theft \$750-\$2500
15300 block Isabella 8 p.m. November 29 Trespassing

Disturbances
14300 block Scallop 11 p.m. December 2 Noise Ordinance Violation

Suspicious Person
15200 block SPID 11 a.m. December 3 Wanted Person
Whitecap/SPID 10 a.m. November 30 Crash

Crown Royal/Dasmarinas 2 a.m. November 30 Traffic

126 Traffic Stops
14300 block SPID 5 p.m. November 30 DWI
11800 block SH 361 2 p.m. November 28 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

Crimes against Person
100 block Gulf Beach 11 a.m. December 1 Aggravated Robbery
15100 block Boca Grandi 6 p.m. November 28 Harassment

Crimes against Property
14900 block Windward Dr. 7 a.m. December 2 Found Property
15100 block Leeward Dr. 11 p.m. November 29 Theft from a vehicle \$100-\$750

Disturbances
Beach Access Road 3A/Gulf Beach 8 a.m. December 1
7400 block SH 361 1 p.m. November 27 Pursuit of a Suspect

Traffic
34 Traffic Stops

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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

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Whooping crane on Goose Island. Photo by Jim Morgan



Roseate Spoonbills at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. By Darla Dollman

Crossword Solution

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



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City Seeking Summer Season Vendors for Beaches and Parks

Applications Open December 5

The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department will be accepting beach and park vending permit applications from December 5, 2023, through January 5, 2024. The permits cover the summer vending season that runs from March 1 to September 30, 2024.

Each year, the City opens its beaches and parks for vendors to provide food, beverage, and activity concessions to more than 700,000 visitors and residents.

Locations include:

- Bay Beaches:
 - o McGee Beach
 - o North Beach
 - o Park Avenue Food Truck Pedestals
- Cole Park:
 - o Skate Park
 - o Kid’s Place
- Gulf Beaches:
 - o North Packery Beach/JP Luby: Marker 203, Marker 206, Marker 207
 - o South Packery Beach: Marker 212, Marker 212.5
 - o Michael J. Ellis Beach & Seawall: Marker 214.5, Marker 215, Marker 216
 - o Whitecap Beach: Marker 223.5

The City Beach & Park Vendor Permit Online Application Form and requirements are available at www.ccparkandrec.com after clicking on “City Beach & Park Vendor Permits.” Completed applications are due no later than January 5. Permits will be issued by January 31.

By the numbers

Padre Island Real Estate Activity October 1 – October 31

By Cindy Molnar
Realtor
Coldwell Banker Island, Realtors

Interior Lot Homes Sold

14229 Sea Pines Drive
15814 Lindo Drive
15230 Reales Drive
15505 Finistere Street
13805 Primavera Drive
15342 Sabre Drive
14234 San Felipe Drive
40 Interior Lot Homes Listed From \$339,900.00 to \$789,000.00

Waterfront Homes Sold

15638 Cuttysark Street
15301 Bowsprit Court
13922 El Socorro Loop
13842 Hawksnest Bay Drive

54 Waterfront Homes Listed From \$479,900.00 to \$2,495,000.00

Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Sold

15505 Windward Drive #210
15108 Dory Drive
15516 Spyglass Drive
15450 Cruiser Street
15240 Beach Way Drive
81 Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Listed From \$150,000.00 to \$699,900.00

Waterfront Condominium/Townhome/Duplex Sold

14427 Compass Street Unit A17
14427 Compass Street Unit A14
15717 Cruiser Street Unit A
13902 Mingo Cay Court Unit C
14810 Windward Dive #210
53 Waterfront Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Listed From \$118,000.00 to \$625,000.00

Waterfront Lot

33 Waterfront Lots Listed From \$219,900.00 to \$3,000,000.00

Interior Lot

22 Interior Lots Listed From \$104,900 to \$3,000,000.00

Commercial Lots

13 Commercial Lots Listed From \$110,000.00-\$2,550,000.00



By Ken Ames

Besides being a generally great place to live for everyone, Texas is especially dedicated to its Veterans and Active-duty Service Members. Many of these benefits are available based on service alone, while others are based on disability ratings. Some benefits listed may be federal, but I am citing them anyway due to relevance to Texas attractions or services.

Lifetime National Parks Pass: Veterans and Gold Star Families can get a lifetime pass that provides free entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites. This includes national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. Active-duty Service Members can get a free annual military pass. Simply present one of the four acceptable forms: DOD ID Card, Veteran Health ID, Veteran ID Card, or veteran’s designation on a state-issued US driver’s license or ID card at participating federal recreation areas that normally charge an entrance fee. Gold Star Families obtain information, self-certify they qualify and download a voucher on NPS.gov. Each lifetime pass covers entrance fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle, or passholder and up to three adults at sites that charge per person. (Think free entrance to P.I.N.S. for your entire carload.)

Texas Veterans State Parks Admissions: Allows free entry to Texas state parks for Texas Disabled Veterans with a 60% or more service-connected disability or loss of lower extremity. One additional person may get a reduced rate of 50% of the standard entry fee. (Note: I have found during my travels that other states will sometimes give free passes if you have your VA Disability Letter with you. It pays to ask.)

Texas Fishing and Hunting Super Combo License: Disabled Veterans with an honorable discharge and a 50% or greater VA disability rating, or the loss of a foot or leg as a result of service, can get a free Super Combo Hunting and Fishing license each year. The Super Combo License includes: resident hunting fishing licenses, with archery, freshwater, saltwater (with a red drum tag), upland game bird, and migratory game bird endorsements. Federal Duck Stamp is NOT included, but is required for waterfowl hunting. Present a valid Texas issued ID and a copy of your VA Disability Rating letter to the TPWD office to register for your free license. License dates run from issuance date through August 31st of each year. Texas

American Legion Post 229

The Islander Post

Texas Veterans Benefits

resident Active-Duty Service Members or active-duty non-residents that have continuously resided in Texas for more than six months, are eligible for a free Super Combo license. Active-duty non-residents can get hunting and fishing licenses at resident rates.

Texas DMV Fee Exemption for Disabled Veterans: A Texas veteran who was honorably discharged, has a service-related disability of at least 60%, receives compensation from the United States because of the disability, and is not subject to sex offender registration requirements can receive a Texas driver license or ID card free-of-charge. The driver license fee exemption does not apply to commercial driver licenses. A Veteran who was honorably discharged or has a general discharge (under honorable conditions) can get a Veteran designation on their driver license. A Disabled Veteran who meets the requirements for a veteran designator and are at least 50% disabled or 40% disabled with a lower extremity amputation may instead request a Disabled Veteran designator. See www.dps.texas.gov for required proof of service/disability rating.

This is a small part of the benefits available, and I will touch on more in upcoming articles. Next time I will go over property tax exemptions available to Disabled Veterans. The American Legion Post 229 has Veterans Service Officers to help Active-duty service members, veterans, and their families take advantage of all the benefits they have earned through service to their country. If you are an active-duty service member, a veteran, or family member that needs help filing for benefits, or more information on membership to the American Legion Post 229, please contact our Adjutant Stephen Armstrong at: americanlegionpost0229@gmail.com. Our Facebook pages are: American Legion Post 0229 “The Islander Post” and American Legion Riders Post 229 “The Islander Post”

Thank you to the growing list of sponsors for our Salute to Service 2024 concert and live/silent auction event on January 20, 2024 at Marker 37 Marina. It will include Dinner, performances by Texas artist Jake Bush and local artist Ty Dietz, and Silent and Live auctions. We would especially like to thank: Todd Hunter, Coastline Properties, Keith Clark, and Marker 37 for their sponsorships. If you would like to sponsor our event, donate items for our auction or purchase tickets for our event, go to: <https://salutetoservice2024.betterworld.org/>


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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

RIP Kitty Flippo...



Rest In Peace Kitty Flippo.

Port A lost another great friend this week. **Kathleen Jane “Kitty” Flippo** passed away last week, another victim of cancer. Kitty was the bar manager at the *Salty Dog* for many years and also worked at the *Gaff* and *Logan’s Bar*. She had many, many friends in Port A and is survived by her son **Preston**. Her family has set up a Venmo account to help with expenses. There will be a fundraiser at the *Gaff* on the 10th and a memorial on the *Island Queen* and the *Salty Dog* on the 16th. Rest in peace sweet lady. You will be missed.

On the local front...



The Gaff’s annual Hippie James’ Ugly Christmas Sweater contest is on Friday, Dec 15.

In case you haven’t noticed, it’s Christmas time in paradise. I know my pal **Heidi** is all a tingle. So is my **Mermaid Gal**. And truth be told, I’m tingling a bit myself. And there’s a ton of stuff going on to celebrate the occasion... coming this Friday and Saturday, December 8th and 9th, Padre Island will be in the throes of the annual *La Posada Boat Parade* and Port A will have their *Holiday Shop Around* with all the local shops geared up for *Christmas*. Also on Saturday the 9th, Port A will have their annual *Lighted Boat Parade* and the *Gaff* will host their bi-monthly (and WORLD FAMOUS) Belt Sander Races of which my coveted **Moon Monkey** will give it another shot. My red hot winning streak is more of a luke warm *coming in third place streak* lately. And with this being the *Winter Texan* season, I’ll be lucky to place third. On Sunday the 10th, *Red’s Riviera* will have the *Joker and Jester Comedy Show* with **Jake Daniels** and **Dan Ellison** providing the laughs. There’s NO COVER CHARGE for this event. On Thursday the 14th the Port A Parks and Rec Department will host the “Winter Texan Welcome Back Picnic” in Roberts Point Park and on the 15th the *Gaff* will have their annual “Hippie James’ Ugly Sweater Contest” with the **Cleartones**, which you DO NOT WANT TO MISS... it’s always a bonafied hoot. Plus in town at the *House of Rock*, **Casey Lane** will be having his annual “Tamale Dinner” on Christmas Eve.

Scattered shots...



The Port A Lighted Boat Parade is this Saturday the 9th.

I only caught one show last weekend but it was a goodern. My new favorite band, **Boudreaux and Pousson**, played inside *Shorty’s* last Friday since the weather was a little brisk. These cats, **Ty Southerland** and **Adam Pousson** are real deal Louisiana Cajun born *Coon Asses*. They get everybody in on the act. In fact, our buddy **Robin Krenek** got up and played the triangle to

the barking dog song. It was great. Keep an eye out for **Boo and Poo’s** next show at *Shorty’s* on January 12th. It’s the most fun you can have with your clothes on.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...



John Cortez will play Shorty’s this Friday the 8th.

And those hits just keep on coming... on Friday, December 8th *Shorty’s* will have veteran blues man **John Cortez** with the great **Jody Jenkins** playing bass. Also on Friday, **Brad Ethridge** will play solo at the *Gaff*. And in town on Friday you can catch **George Birge** at *Brewster Dntown*, **Crucial Riddem** at the *Exchange* and the red hot **Raul Ayala** at *Retro*. On Saturday the 9th, the folk rocking **Independent Thieves** with **David King** and **Garrett Wieland** will play *Shorty’s*. Also on Saturday, the **Gainan Band** is at the *VFW*, the **Dunebillies** will play the *Lighted Boat Parade* based out of *Fisherman’s Wharf*, **Diamond’s Edge** will play the *Sugar Shack* and the great ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control**, will play the *South Texas Ice House*. Coming this Sunday the 10th, I already mentioned the *Gaff* hosting **Kitty Flippo’s** send off with the **Dunebillies** plus *Shorty’s* will have their weekly *Sunday Funday* with **Jim Dugan** (4-8), **Ty Dietz** (8-12) plus **Edwin’s** killer jambalaya or something equally tasty. Also let it be known... the *VFW* has some delightful mid-week shows with **Billy Snipes** playing every Tuesday and the **Cleartones** playing every Wednesday. And don’t forget **Selfie** plays every Thursday at *Shorty’s* as they have since 2014.

On the horizon...



The Cleartones play every Wednesday at the VFW.

On the near horizon...the **Chainlinks** will play the *House of Rock* on Friday, December 15th and the super hot jam band, **Triptonite**, will play the *Exchange* and **Raul Ayala** is at *Marker 12*. On Saturday the 16th, the **OTB Band** will be at the *VFW*, veteran blues man **Mike O’Neil** will play *Shorty’s*, **Diamond’s Edge** will play *Rockit’s*, **Fistful of Metal** is at the *Exchange*, **Casy Donahew** will play *Brewster Street Ice House Dntown* and the great **Bushbullit** with **Oscar Gonzales** will play *K-Bob’s*. On Sunday the 17th, **Alonzo Cruz** will play the *Pelican Lounge* on Padre, **Eric Magnus** will be at the *Sunset Hideaway* in Ingleside and **Laura Derkits** will be hosting a sing along around the fire pit at *Trinity By the Sea Episcopal Church* in Port A... that sounds very wholesome.

New Year’s Eve...

The New Year’s Eve shows are starting to come in. So far we have great original country from **Todd Dorn** and the **Sea Drifters** playing *Shorty’s*, the *VFW* will have the 80’s cover band, **The Groove** rocking out, the superb **Splendiferous** will be at *Port Royal*, our pals **Diamond’s Edge** will play the *Pelican* on Padre Island, the new hot shot band **Raul Ayala** with the great **Christopher Ivory** on keys and **Matt Maldonado** on skins will play the *Sugar Shack* in Rockport, the always fun **Chillbillies** will play *Legends* in Fulton, the psychedelic jam band **Triptonite** will play their home bar, *The Exchange*, the **Chainlinks** with the delightful **Celeste Torres** on lead vocals and **Louie Mandel** on lead guitar will play *Hardknocks* on Padre. BTW, Louie and the **Chainlinks** drummer, **Landin Martinez** along with bassist **Andrew Jueig** have started a spinoff band called **Heavy Soul** and brother they are great in a rocking soul kind of way. Yall be safe out there... it’s the season of drunks and cops!

♪♪♪ And, that’s the truth ♪♪♪



Robin Krenek jumped into the act with Boudreaux and Pousson at Shorty’s last weekend.



The Joker and Jester Comedy Show will play Red’s Riviera on Sunday, Dec 10th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday.

December 8

LA POSADA BOAT PARADE @ N. Padre HOLIDAY SHOP AROUND @ Port A John Cortez @ Shorty’s Brad Ethridge @ Gaff George Birge @ Brewster Dntown Crucial Riddem @ The Exchange Raul Ayala @ Retro Jon Car @ Pelican Lounge Starlite & the Moonbeams @ Executive Surf Club Reno Perez @ Republic of Texas Michael Anthony Perez @ South Tex Ice House OTB @ Doc’s Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard’s

Saturday.

December 9

PORT A LIGHTED BOAT PARADE & DRONE SHOW BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff HOLIDAY SHOP AROUND @ Port A Independent Thieves @ Shorty’s The Gainans @ VFW Dunebillies @ Boat Parade Dylan Wheeler @ Brewster Dntown Wicked Project @ The Exchange National Nobodz @ Pelican Lounge Billy Snipes @ Island Italian Raul Ayala @ Lulu’s Landing Diamond’s Edge @ Sugar Shack Gary Morris @ Charlotte Plummers Fulton Cruise Control @ South Texas Ice House Alley Catz Band @ Heather Ridge Farms

Sunday.

December 10

HOLIDAY SHOP AROUND @ Port A JOKER & JESTER COMEDY SHOW @ Red’s BENEFIT FOR KITTY FLIPPO @ Gaff Dunebillies @ Gaff

Ty Dietz, Jim Dugan @ Shorty’s Lady Kat & Mattman @ House of Rock Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard’s Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge Eric Magnus @ Sunset Hideaway Ingleside

Monday.

December 11

Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday.

December 12

Billy Snipes @ VFW Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard’s Tex Beaumont @ The Exchange Joey St. Vincent @ Mesquite Street Southside Eric Graham @ La Palmera Mall

Wednesday.

December 13

Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff Cleartones @ VFW Eli Brown @ The Exchange Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard’s Justin & Niki @ Pelican Lounge Billy Snipes @ Doc’s Michael Burts @ Pompanos

Thursday.

December 14

WINTER TEXAN WELCOME BACK PICNIC @ Robt Point Park Selfie @ Shorty’s Michael Burts @ Brewster Southside Eric Graham @ Nueces Whiskey Library Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

Friday.

December 15

HIPPY JAMES’ UGLY SWEATER CONTEST @ Gaff Chainlinks @ House of Rock Cruise Control @ Executive Surf Club Triptonite @ The Exchange Crosstown Expressway @ Pelican Lounge

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INDEPENDENT THIEVES	DEC 9
TY DIETZ, JIM DUGAN	DEC 10
MIKE O’NEIL	DEC 16
STARLITE	DEC 22

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BILLY SNIPES	DEC 12
CLEARTONES	DEC 13
OTB BAND	DEC 16
RICH LOCKHART	DEC 22

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