

Ingleside on the Bay Passes Budget, Tax Rate

By Rebecca Madden

The budget process was smooth sailing for Ingleside on the Bay City Council members, who passed the budget and tax rate following a quick nine-minute public hearing Sept. 20th.

For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the adopted budget includes anticipated total income at \$671,600, while total expenses are estimated at \$670,880.

"We try to go with a zero budget, which means we take it and spend it," said Mayor Jo Ann Ehmann.

With just a few minor adjustments from earlier on in the budget process, she shared that the sewer technician salary was tweaked. From \$9,000 in the 2021-2022 budget to \$18,000 in the 2022-2023 budget. She also shared the importance of building a utility fund reserve to be able to fund future water and sewer projects.

"We should have done that from the get-go 20

years ago," she said. "The sewer kind of doesn't really pay for itself and we know we're going to have additional expenses or way or another at one point."

IOB resident Patye Miller was the lone speaker from the audience during the public hearing. She inquired about a different source of income: sales tax revenue from recently opened and some upcoming businesses to the small city.

"Where does it go; the general fund?" she asked.

Ehmann replied, "Yes," before she shared that it wouldn't go to one specific line item, rather the general fund as a whole, which pays for the streets, signs, attorney, auditor, public works and more.

Sales tax and property tax are IOB's two main sources of income, Ehmann said. Little funds also are collected through franchise fees, such as from use of right of ways with utility companies. Ehmann said

the base rate for sales tax is 6.25 percent, and the city charges 1 percent over that.

"We try to go with a zero budget, which means we take it and spend it," said Mayor Jo Ann Ehmann.

"Our sales tax revenue the last three or four years has increased a little bit each year," she said, as a conservative estimate for the 2022-2023 budget would be \$24,000.

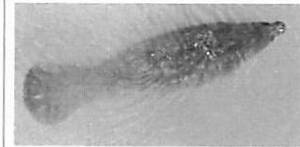
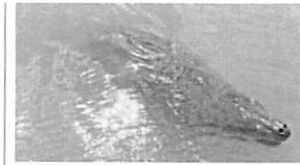
Meanwhile, the total property tax collected is dependent on the approved tax rate. With increased valuations, which are set by the county, and a tax rate which hovered near 21 cents per

\$100 assessed valuation, an estimated \$193,000 is to be collected in property taxes for the 2022-2023 budget.

In the regular meeting portion of the evening, Councilman Tom Daley made the motion to adopt the proposed 2022-2023 budget, to which Councilwoman Ann Nyberg seconded the motion, and it carried with a vote of 5-0. Councilwoman Brenda Duncan was absent from the meeting. A short while later, during the tax rate vote, present council members reviewed the proposed tax rate of 0.207193 per \$100 assessed valuation.

"This is just slightly different than what we've had the last few years," Ehmann said. "We have one of the lowest tax rates in the region."

Nyberg agreed and made a motion to adopt the proposed 2022-2023 tax rate, and Councilwoman Suzi Wilder seconded the motion. That also carried with a vote of 5-0.



Rare Visit

Courtesy: Benjamin Tucker

A Manatee, common to the Gulf waters in Florida, was recently sighted in Ingleside, as proven in these images. Known as 'sea cows,' the giant mammals feed off vegetation. This one was spotted September 22nd in Ingleside Cove, near the Jewel Fulton Canal not far from Signet Maritime Corporation.

HS and MWCC Partner to Offer Space Camp Trip through Essay Competition

By Rebecca Madden

Ingleside High School students have an exclusive invitation from Marine Well Containment Company to join a STEM competition in which two participants will win an all-expenses paid trip to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

The announcement was made Sept. 25 to all IHS engineering and English 3 students, comprised of mainly 11th-graders. IHS Principal Steven Edlin shared that while all juniors would participate in the essay portion of the scholarship contest, those interested in pursuing the Space Camp opportunity would also complete a science, technology, engineering, or math-related project.

"This is an exciting opportunity for every one of you," he told the small student crowd. "This is an opportunity that no one else is getting; no one else in the state, no one else in the nation. We're very excited."

David Nickerson, Marine Well Containment Company's chief executive officer, shared that keeping people interested in STEM education and careers has been a focus since the company's birth just over one decade ago. Nickerson recounted April 20, 2010, which he called "one of the worst days in the history of the coal and gas industry" when there was an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

Students remained silent as they listened to Nickerson provide his recollection of the day. The explosion occurred about 40 miles off the coast of Louisiana in 5,000 feet of water, and while a majority of the 126 people on board were able to evacuate, 11 people died and 17 were injured. The incident was the first time

a blow-out had occurred on a well drilled in water that deep; the well had flowed into the ocean at the sea floor for nearly three months until it was capped off. By then, over 1,300 miles of shoreline along the coast was polluted. MWCC was then developed to prevent similar instances, and Nickerson said it was all because people involved who had been committed to STEM careers.

Now, IHS students have the opportunity to share their ideas and perhaps one day make a difference as well. Nickerson discussed STEM career paths, anticipated job growth, high salaries, and low unemployment rates of those in the STEM field. He added that in Ingleside alone the potential is abound within major industries, including right at the MWCC shore base location within Kiewit Offshore Service. There, equipment is housed to outfit MWCC's "modular capture vessels in the event of a deployment to a deep water well control event," according to the company website.

"High school is an ideal time to try things out and learn what you like," Nickerson told the students. "This competition provides an opportunity for you to do this."

Throughout the next month as students work through all the details, not only will they receive support from their teachers, but also mentors from MWCC. As students complete their portion of the competition, names will be taken off of their work and numbers will be assigned. MWCC staff will judge each entry and from there two winners will be selected. Edlin said IHS will have a big party to announce the winners.

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Police Veteran Multitasks to Find Lawbreakers in Ingleside

By Mark Silberstein

A quick turn of the head and he spotted it right away.

"See there? He has a headlight out," Ingleside Police Sergeant Ben Ramos pointed in the direction of FM 1069 as it intersects with Hwy. 361, the busiest two thoroughfares in the city, especially late at night when local bars let out and he patrols the area, expecting to find an impaired motorist behind the wheel.

An experienced law enforcement officer, Ramos came to Ingleside after retiring from the Bexar County Sheriff's Office in San Antonio. He became known as an expert in crime scene in-

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Aransas Pass Progress

An Ingleside motorist is frisked by Sgt. Ben Ramos Friday night, September 16th near Hwy. 361 after the pickup he drove was spotted with a headlight out. The police and Bexar County Sheriff's Deputy veteran could smell pot as soon as he approached the driver's side window and, following a search with other officers, arrested the man for possession of marijuana. Inside the pickup, Ramos also found this gun - a fake. Just a toy the driver acknowledged he had. But to the untrained eye, it appears as though it could be the real thing.

IOB Restaurateur Creates Menu for Success

By Mark Silberstein

What better way to build excitement about a new restaurant about to open in Ingleside on the Bay than lighting up a huge smoker so the aroma of post oak, wood that is indigenous to south Texas and a key ingredient in the cooking of brisket and other savory barbecue delights wafts through the Bayshore Drive neighborhood. At least that's the suggestion of Rita Brem, 42, who along with her husband Travis, 46, are about to open Saly Oak on the Bay in October. Their original restaurant, Saly Oak BBQ in Corpus Christi has been

drawing Texas barbecue fans since it opened in July 2017.

Brem and his wife have signed a two-year lease to occupy space that had been known as the Brass Turtle Restaurant at 1233 Bayshore Dr. The restaurateur couple have ambitious plans for the new dining spot which is the first in a series of steps they're taking to franchise the concept, already working with another business partner to open a third location in San Antonio, possibly as early as the end of the year. If the Brem's vision is a success, they have their heart set on making their

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Travis and Rita Brem (left and center) of Corpus Christi signed a two-year lease to occupy the space once known as the Brass Turtle Restaurant at 1233 Bayshore Dr. in Ingleside on the Bay and next month plan to re-open the facility as Saly Oak on the Bay, featuring their signature barbecue brisket and other dishes that have proven successful at their first restaurant, Saly Oak BBQ in Corpus Christi. With them is newly hired manager for the IOB location, Veronika Ybarra.



SMARTER STEELS FOR
PEOPLE AND PLANET.



Out & About

Ingleside United Methodist Church is having a Blessing of the Animals service, to show our love and concern for all of God's creatures.

The service will be held on Saturday, October 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the courtyard of the church.

Ingleside United Methodist Church is located at 2572 Church Street (across from HEB).

Pastor Gail will hold a short service in the courtyard, and afterward, she will bestow a blessing on your pets/animals that you choose to bring.

The community is invited to attend and bring their pets/animals on a leash or in a carrier.

communitywide initiative is welcome to drop it off in the church foyer at 3530 N. Main St. in Ingleside during normal hours Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Aransas Pass Church Hosts BBQ

Bring your appetites to St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church at 342 S. Rife St., Aransas Pass for an October 2nd barbecue, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event offers a dine-in option at the parish hall, or drive through pickup of a chicken plate for \$10, or brisket, \$15. Each meal includes baked beans, potato salad and bread. Tickets are sold at the door.

Join in the Feast

Aransas Pass has scheduled this year's 9th annual community 'Fall Feast' for Thursday, November 17th at the Civic Center, 700 W. Wheeler Ave. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and meals will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. while supplies last. No ID is required, and anyone can attend. The Butter Churn Restaurant is catering the food.

Trunk or Treat

Sunset Hideaway in Bahia Marina at 84 Bayshore Dr. in Ingleside on the Nay welcomes families and children to attend their 3rd annual 'Trunk or Treat on the Bay' Halloween Party Saturday, October 29th, starting at 5:30 p.m. There will be live music, prizes and treats for all.

A Harbor Halloween

The City of Aransas Pass is hosting their 7th annual 'Trunk or Treat' event at Conn Brown Harbor Saturday, October 29th from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Sponsors are welcome, especially if they want to underwrite the cost of candy to be distributed. Volunteers are also needed to hand out goodies. Marilu Mojica is who you can contact at City Hall to help. (361) 758-3111, ext. 3151.

HS AND MWCC PARTNER TO OFFER SPACE CAMP TRIP THROUGH ESSAY COMPETITION

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"This is a very big deal for us," he said. "(MWCC) is based out in Houston, but their base here is off of Kiewit; they're right in our backyard."

Sara Willett, MWCC Director of Communications & Public Affairs, said the prize is truly an all-expenses-paid week-long trip to Space Camp, room, board, travel, airport shuttle and even a stipend for souvenirs is included.

Nickerson said both he and the company as a whole are excited for the venture, and "hopefully it takes off." "This is the start-up here," he said of building

a stronger STEM relationship with IHS. "What students are being asked to do is solve a real-world problem that can be solved with STEM."

The company had previously worked with teachers at Ingleside Primary School for fun STEM activities, but after some school re-prioritizations, that stopped, Willett said.

Kelsey Picou, Ingleside Independent School District's Director of Communications and Community, said she is excited for IHS students to participate in an adventure they might not otherwise have had if it weren't for the budding partnership with MWCC.



BODY BY BECCA

Well, that wasn't the gym class in elementary school I remember!

I thought it would be so fun my last week here for six months to try something totally different in the community- join a children's workout at school. The last elementary physical education class I attended was circa 1996 and I promise you it was not a High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) style workout that I did with sixth graders at Blaschke-Sheldon Elementary School within the Ingleside Independent School District.

I remember square dance lessons in the late 1980s/early 1990s, and the dreaded rope climb from the floor to ceiling (let's say I put a whole new meaning to base jumper), and we can't forget the parachute game. Mat ball (really kickball with large mats at bases, was also a huge thing. But this workout I did, under the direction of physical education teacher David McHugh, was honestly not that different than the HIIT-style workout I did at N.O. Simmons Park in Ingleside the week prior.

From the get-go, the students were engaged and excited to participate in "Wellness Wednesday" High knees, a quick lap, and other workouts were included in the warm-up. Each student had a hand in the workout by drawing a card and whichever number the card was, that portion of the workout was doubled. For instance, McHugh gave me the honors of drawing the first card, and it was a queen (like it was meant to be haha), so with that card worth

By Rebecca Madden



10 points, the workout began with 20 push-ups. I didn't pay attention to anyone else's form, but I did glance to see what the kids were doing, and they accomplished full

push-ups. Me, on the other hand, absolutely modified them. Even though I've lost a lot of weight, I still carry a lot and need to develop my strength, particularly in my arms and shoulders.

Rest assured; McHugh told the class it was OK to modify exercises. He was just happy to see the students moving and enjoying physical activity.

The HIIT-style workout continued with sit-ups, jumping jacks, squat jumps, lunges, high knees, bench press, squats, overhead press, arm curls, heel touches, shoulder shrugs and it finished strong with laps...seven to be exact. I don't even know what the distance was, but I was sweating. The gymnasium was hot but sweat just adds to the workout. The day was beautiful, which McHugh said was a blessing because typically it's more humid outside.

As some of the students struggled to complete individual exercises, particularly running laps, he was a good source of inspiration and motivation, which pushed some students a little further. One student was lagging during the last couple of laps, but he finished strong as he jogged his final lap. One girl was ecstatic that she finished first...just one person ahead of me. I liked seeing that motivation in her: seeing that finish line, and someone approaching it and she just HAD to be the one to cross it



first.

McHugh was energetic and happy to be coaching the students and having me as a guest. He has just one goal in mind: to help them achieve lifetime fitness. I will remember that fun time, and I hope the students realize how to start their journey now. I hope they don't wait until they're 34 like I did.

I encourage you, too, to go out and try something completely out of the ordinary. Working out with children- you wouldn't think would add much to your fitness journey. But I tell you what- it definitely made an impact on me.

Until next week, have fun with fitness -Rebecca

VETERAN'S VOICES: MICHAEL JUST, U.S. NAVY

By Mark Silberstein

Typical wintertime temperatures in Bismarck, North Dakota, the state's capital, average in the low 20s. Even when it's not in season, there's often snow. From a child until he became a teenager, Michael Just "shoveled a lot of snow," he recalled, sitting in the dining room of his Ingleside home. And, when he had enough of the cold and the snow, at age 17, he decided it was time to leave. So, he did, enlisting in the U.S. Navy, at the height of the Vietnam War.

Now 70, just has long since retired from the military, achieving the highest rank possible for a non-commissioned officer. He was a Command Master Chief Petty Officer. Aboard a Navy vessel, a Captain commanded the ship. Just commanded the crew that ran it.

"There wasn't much to do," just remarked of his North Dakota home. The family kept him busy tending a large vegetable garden raising onions and potatoes. When not in school, he played on a Pee Wee League baseball team. Dad was a janitor. Mom, a nurse.

"When I turned 17, I quit school and joined the Navy," said Just, explaining that while in the service he obtained a G.E.D.

"I was studying to get out of that cold weather," Just laughed, admitting he was a very poor student and routinely earned failing grades. A year before he quit school, at 16, he worked for 75-cents an hour as a dishwasher in a local café.

A recruiter for the Navy happened to join a bowling league in town, the same league Just had joined. "Then, he got me to join the Navy," laughed Just, describing the circumstances that got him to enlist. Having missed the draft by days, if not weeks after signing up, Michael figured being at sea was the safest place to be as the war in Vietnam escalated when he was shipped off to boot camp in 1969.

"They were happy," Just said of his parent's reaction to his decision.

"I was lazy," admitted Just. "I had to learn a lot when I joined the Navy."

On August 4, 1969, Just started his

Navy training. With near alabaster white skin, Just pulled a lot of watch duty on deck of the first ship he was assigned after boot camp. Wearing a white uniform just exacerbated the situation and he fell ill, suffering from sun poisoning. His skin blistered and he was issued ointment to deal with the pain and redness that resulted.

Adding to the physical ordeal he wasn't expecting, Just was overweight when he enlisted. In a form of hazing, he was routinely subjected to mild abuse. Minor infractions earned him a series of push-ups. But Just wasn't fazed and he picked up on the routine, knowing he wasn't going to break under the pressure.

"I could never learn military time," he laughed again, thinking about all the different lessons the Navy taught him.

"Nothing," Just exclaimed when asked what he knew about Vietnam before he was deployed there.

"I knew they were fighting, and I'm not going," he assumed. But his orders came, and just went.

The path that brought him there began at the Atlantic Fleet headquarters in Norfolk, VA. There, just and other crew members were preparing to outfit for commissioning a new, amphibious assault ship named the USS Inchon - a vessel that would later be decommissioned at its last home port - Ingleside, TX.

Known as the LPH-12, for landing-platform-helicopter, the massive vessel carried a variety of helicopters, tanks, and other battle-ready equipment and an entire company of Marines. Its mission was to bring its fighting force wherever needed in the Vietnam theater and deliver personnel and cargo to its target.

"I had a stroke," Just revealed, explaining it happened just a few weeks before his retirement from the Navy in 1999. Having been stationed at the Ingleside base, he was driving to Corpus Christi April 15th when he went off the road and crashed.

"My carotid artery dissected," he said. "I was done," or so he thought.

Just survived; the experience renew-



Aransas Pass Progress Michael Just, 70, grew up in Bismarck, ND and wanted to get as far from there as he could once he was a teen, joining the U.S. Navy. He met and married his wife, Flordemay, now 77, who ran a business in Corpus Christi. She is originally from Mindanao in the Philippines.

ing his belief in his faith, raised a Baptist. He remains an active member of the North Bay Fellowship church in Ingleside.

"I don't like public speaking," Just said, adding it's one reason he won't pray out loud. The stoke didn't create any paralysis. But he admits to having difficulty with some brain functions.

"I can't think straight," he acknowledges the impairment. "If I don't have things written out, I can't remember."

Chronic health issues affecting his back and knees have earned Just a near complete medical disability status. But he gets around, still drives a car, and functions like most. It was his job in the Navy, though, he blames for his condition today.

Assigned aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Ranger to supervise the refueling of helicopters, Just was deep in the belly

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