



The Lighthouse

Marina renovations near completion

The Marina restroom renovation is very close to being completed and the piling project will pick up again sometime in February. Notices will be sent for boats needing to be relocated.

Mark your calander for Race to the Border

The eighth by-annual Race to the Border Regatta, organized by volunteers and sponsored by True North Marine, is slated for Saturday, June 3. Race To The Border is a non-profit organization and funds from this event are donated back to the community.

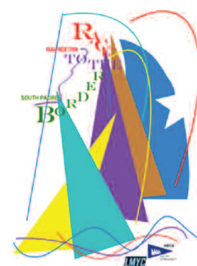
Participating sailboats and powerboats will leave Galveston on a 240-nautical mile race to the blue waters of

Check out the before and after pictures of the work already completed, page 5

South Padre Island. The crews and families will enjoy three days of festivities including a welcome party, a get together lunch by the water, and the hospitality of South Padre and Port Isabel with a brunch and a dinner trophy presentation.

South Padre Island is only six hours by car or a fast plane ride for families to join their boats. During past events, there has been bonfires on the beach, dolphin watch outings, scavenger hunt parties and many activities for the whole family.

The kickoff party will be in April at True North Marine, the sponsor. Check the website, www.racetotheborder.com, for more information and updates. Sign up early and plan a vacation for the family.



Yachty Gras time on the Boardwalk

Saturday, February 18 brings the eighteenth annual Yachty Gras Boat Parade in Clear Lake starting at 7 p.m. The boats will parade down Clear Creek Channel by the Kemah Boardwalk and revelers will be showered with beads and doubloons. Boat owners are encouraged to form private *Krewes* and decorate their boats to a particular theme. Originality and good taste will be highly valued in judging.

The Yachty Gras Boat Parade is open to any well-found vessel that is insured and has appropriately silenced exhaust system. There will be a kick off party Saturday, February 11 at Sundance Grill from 7-11 p.m. The Skipper's Meeting is required for participating boats, 10 a.m. Saturday,



February 18 at Sundance Grill.

Mardi Gras Galveston

If you're looking for a unique Mardi Gras experience in 2017, grab some beads and hit the beach. Mardi Gras! Galveston, the third largest Mardi Gras celebration in the United States, offers the unique chance to experience sand between your toes and gorgeous beach sunsets while tak-

ing in the revelry and lavish parades known to dominate Galveston Island during carnival season.

The Island's 106th Mardi Gras celebration, is February 17-28, and is expected to draw more than 300,000 attendees for 30+ concerts, 22 parades, 20 balcony

FAQs about Mardi Gras! Galveston, page 2

More Mardi Gras, page 5

MARDI GRAS! GALVESTON FAQs

• Is there a cost to attend Mardi Gras! Galveston?

There is a gate fee for attendees to enter the Mardi Gras downtown entertainment district where the majority of parades, headline concerts, balcony parties, vendor booths and other festivities are held. Once in the district, there is NO additional fee for attending concerts and parades. Balcony parties require an additional ticket. For ticket information, click [here](#).

Admission to the entertainment district is FREE for children 12 years or younger accompanied by a parent or guardian. Seawall parades and festivities are free to attend.

• Where are the entrances for the downtown Mardi Gras Entertainment District located?

- ♦ 20th and Strand
- ♦ Mechanic Street at 21st, 23rd and 25th
- ♦ 21st and Harborside Drive

• I plan to stay multiple days in Galveston for Mardi Gras. Where can I stay?

We have many hotels on the Island to fit all comfort levels and budgets. Certain hotels do offer Mardi Gras packages, which can be found [here](#). If you wish to stay at a hotel not on that list, please contact them directly. Since Mardi Gras! Galveston is such a popular festival, it is best to book your hotel a few months in advance to secure a room.

Visitors can also choose from a variety of bed-and-breakfasts, condominiums or vacation rental homes. Please check www.galveston.com/lodging for contact information or to book direct.

• What is Mardi Gras attire?

Many people celebrating Mardi Gras! Galveston tend to get into the spirit of things and dress up for the occasion! You will see a variety of costumes, sequined outfits, flashy hats, and colorful wigs. The best advice to follow is to dress properly for the weather and dress comfortably.

• Where should I park?

Parking lots are located at 21st & Market, 20th & Market, and 20th & Post Office. Parking garages are located at 25th &

Harborside and 22nd & Market. There is also metered street parking. A Taxi stand will be located on 23rd and Market for pickup and drop off of guests to the entertainment district.

• How do I enter my float or group in a Mardi Gras! Galveston parade?

Each krewe is responsible for the operation of their parades. Please contact the krewes directly for information on being a part of a parade. Contact information can be found [HERE](#). To enter your float, band or party bus in most downtown parades, contact Parade Coordinator Jimmy Wisner at jimmz77@sbcglobal.net.

• Are there any items I CAN'T bring into the Mardi Gras! Entertainment District?

Yes. Here is a list of prohibited items:

- No Cans
- No Alcohol (alcohol is sold at the festival)
- No Food or beverages, except for 2 factory sealed water bottles up to 1 liter each
- No Silly String
- No Strollers After Dark
- No Glass Containers/Bottles
- No Coolers
- No Skateboards
- No Roller Blades
- No Bicycles
- No Scooters
- No Backpacks
- No Weapons (except legally permitted firearms)
- No Large Umbrellas
- No Fireworks or explosives
- No Large chains or spike jewelry
- No Pets (except service dogs)
- No Outdoor/Indoor Furniture
- No Professional still camera equipment.
- No detachable lenses, tripods, big zooms or commercial use rigs
- No Professional video equipment.
- No Illegal vending is permitted. No unauthorized/unlicensed vendors allowed.
- No Unauthorized solicitations, handbills, sampling, give-aways etc.

The Lighthouse

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Magic tape does exist for hoses

*Courtesy BoatU.S.
by Tom Neale*

It turns out that there exists a magic tape that cures many boat ills.

I used to carry aboard around 75 pounds of spare hoses of many different types, materials, and lengths. I was often out in the islands or at sea and knew I'd have to fix whatever hose broke. Two years ago, I gathered most of those spares and took them off the boat. I did this because of Rescue Tape. It's a self-amalgamating silicone tape and, if you haven't used it yet, it will amaze you. *Note: There are other brands of this type of tape on the market, but I have not used them.*

The company says that its tape creates a permanent airtight, watertight seal in seconds; never gets gummy like electrical or duct tape; has a very long shelf life; is very versatile; resists fuels, oils, acids, solvents, saltwater, road salt, and UV; is self-fusing; has 950-psi tensile strength; insulates 8,000 volts per layer; withstands 500 F of heat; and remains flexible to minus 85 F (minus 60 C). You can put it on over wet or oily surfaces. I'm told that this type of tape has been found to be tried-and-true by many, including the military. I know, I know — this all sounds too good to be true, right?

Well, for me, it's lived up to its reputation. I've used it for many applications, including a busted water-hose section that supplies dockside water to our boat when we're in a marina. The hose split in a marina with around 70 to 80 pounds of pressure (way too much). I patched it more than two years ago. Since then, the hose has remained outside, suffered much abuse (as when I trip and fall into it), had almost daily exposure to UV, suffered 60-plus pounds of pressure for long periods of time — and it has not failed yet.

I've also used the tape in applications involving hot water to repair pipes, to whip line ends, and to mark lines, to name a few. You can put it on over a wet pipe or hose. It doesn't require dryness or sticking like other tape, just the pressure of a tight wrap during application.



Rescue Tape has never failed for Tom Neale. The tape was cut with a knife to demonstrate the bulge in the hose he repaired two years ago.

This type of tape takes some skill to apply correctly. Read the instructions and practice before you have to use it in an emergency. You have to stretch it tightly over itself as you wrap it, so that it melds into itself. There's no sticky surface, but it'll start to fuse to itself almost at the touch. There's a layer of clear backing on one side to keep it from melding before you want it to, and you have to become accustomed to working with that. The backing is discarded as you wrap the tape. Once you get used to the process, it's easy to use.

Because you're stretching it tightly, a little goes much further than you'd initially expect. And the more layers you use, the more stress it'll take and the more durable the repair.

Tom Neale is technical editor of BoatUS Magazine. He lived and cruised aboard the Chez Nous for more than 30 years.

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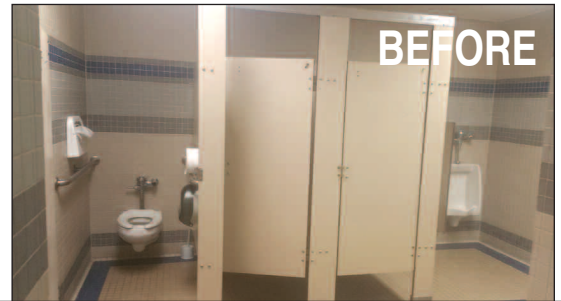
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Restroom remodel is coming together



BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

Mardi Gras

continued from page 1

parties and five elegant masked balls. And, this island-style Mardi Gras has plenty of personality. From the classic revelry found in the heart of Galveston's historic downtown district — where the bulk of festivities take place — to electronic dance parties and family friendly events and parades, Mardi Gras! Galveston offers excitement everyone can enjoy.

At Mardi Gras! Galveston, the extravagance found in Texas's largest Mardi Gras celebration starts with the beads. More than 3 million beads will be thrown and that's just the beginning of the elaborate parades, headliner performances, family events, feasting and other festivities that come

with hosting Mardi Gras island style.

Watch all your favorite Mardi Gras parades, including the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius, Krewe Gambrinus and Knights of Momus Grand Night Parade as they come to the Entertainment District, from a balcony party on the Strand. Balcony parties include admission into the Entertainment District, access to the balcony party with cash bar and music and a VIP view of the festivities.

Dance to non-stop entertainment on the Saengerfest Stage and Electric Mardi Gras Stage. Buy your General Admission tickets today and have access to all concerts.

You can run the Mardi Gras! Galveston Official 5k Run to start the party early.



Roll with the Annual Zaniest Golf Cart Parade! Golf Cart parade entries receive free entry into the Entertainment District & Best Decorated Golf Cart gets free Balcony Party Passes.

Get your *Ticket to Ride*. We provide the float, beads, driver and balcony party you provide the Krewe. Gather your friends and contact info@yagaspresents.com to sign up today and ask about all the ways to play.

For complete details on all these events and more visit www.galveston.com/mardigras or www.mardigrasgalveston.com



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"It has been said that a
Scotchman has not seen the
world until he has seen Edinburgh;
and I think that I may say that an
American has not seen the United
States until he has seen Mardi
Gras in New Orleans."

— Mark Twain

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