



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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Rockport: Greetings again from the land of the LaMartians; boy has there been some weird news from this part of the coast. First up is the jury that heard several days of testimony in a civil case against New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson this past week. He owns a 100 acre bird preserve around these parts and a goose that the plaintiffs claim was under his care, custody and control, that apparently has a real mean streak when awoken from its slumber, attacked a neighbor. "The elderly lady was taking out her trash and was retreating back into her home when the gander became enraged". The critter attacked the women knocking her to the ground, painfully pecked her about the head, shoulders and private parts all the while flogging her with its wings. The attack lasted for several minutes until the angry gander got whatever it was out of its system and waddled off to the roost. The injuries suffered by the 79-year-old woman have caused her to be placed in a nursing home since her children can no longer care for her. The jury was out for 25 minutes and found for the defendant, awarding no damages or attorney fees.

Benson was unavailable for comment; a spokesperson said that he was busy attending to roof repairs at the Superdome. The local news reports did point out that the Benson Bird Preserve did purchase her small plot of property for 400 grand sometime after the attack.

I 'spect the other neighbors are likely to be as enraged as the goose was when they get their new property tax appraisals.

And I'm sure some of ya'll remember Fred Rich of 54 Karat fame. The sport fishing vessel was a scourge in billfish tournaments from the Sandspit to Alabama. Word is that Fred is fine but he'll be out of commission for the next four or so years after the Feds got him for insurance fraud among other things. It would seem



Tommy Ramzinsky and Todd Adams are on a roll. They earned 75K last fall winning the Wal-Mart FLW Redfish Championship. In Rockport they picked up where they left off. The local boys blew away the field with a three day total of six fish weighing a series record of 49.9 oz.

that ol' Fred and some buddies got caught cookin' houses, literally and helped the homeowners negotiate mold claim settlements with their insurance companies for a 10 percent cut. He also offered some of his better rental properties at exorbitant rates to those displaced by the remediation efforts. The insurance companies picked up the tab for those too.

Apparently he and his buddies would convince the homeowners that they had a mold problem and move them into his rental units. They'd return to the homes and hose down the interiors, seal the windows, doors and crank up the heater as they left. When they returned the interiors resembled a Chia Pet on 'roids. Most of this was done without the collusion of the homeowners but the claims were huge as ya'll probably remember at the turn of the new century. Ol' Fred pled out to insurance fraud, money laundering and some other acts of nefarious bidness dealin's. In return he got 4 years and two months at a federal plantation, agreed to pay 629 grand in restitution and a 10K fine plus pick up the tab for one year of his incarceration. Special thanks to the Corpus Caller-Times and some of the regulars at Pop's Bar in Lamar for their insight and local under-the-table knowledge of these two affairs. The Wal-Mart FLW Redfish fling was a scream, I'll give ya'll the skinny next week.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2420, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.