

A fishing pier at Tiki Tom's RV Park just after sunset. The pier is one of four 250-foot piers on Jones Lake in West Bay just off Interstate 45 in Tiki Island. The RV park has access to six areas of protected grassland along with several oyster reefs and is great for bird watching.

Coastal Visions

Story by **Bronwyn Turner** » Correspondent » Photos courtesy of **Robert Mihovil**

Veteran photographer Robert Mihovil stalked rodeos, tugboats, beauty pageants and even a top-secret spacecraft to produce a coffee-table pictorial of Galveston County.

The 145 images in the hardcover book are punctuated with text by local writer Leslie Watts, helping spell out Galveston County's past, present and future directions.

"This is for anybody who loves Galveston County"

said Mihovil, a fourth-generation islander known for his work documenting Hurricane Ike, as well as feature and corporate photography across the county. "If you're bringing folks in from out of town, they'll get a good deal of what the county is all about."

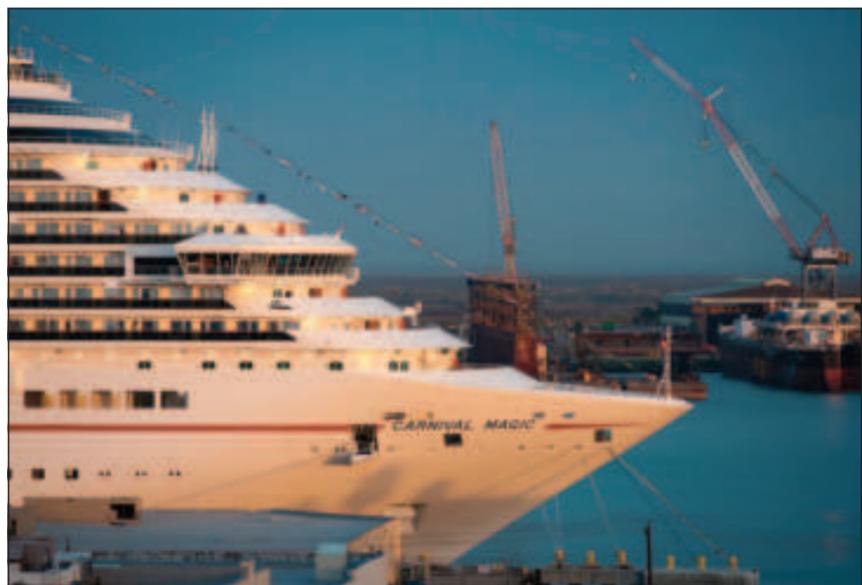
[See book | C5](#)



A windmill is silhouetted at sunrise on land owned by WestWind Helicopters in Santa Fe. The windmill pumps water into the pond.



Participants Allison and Bob Brown show off their decorated umbrellas during the Galveston Mardi Gras Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade. It was an attempt to beat the world record for the largest choreographed umbrella dance — 1,503 folks danced to the tune of the "Hokey Pokey" to break the world record.



Carnival Cruise Ship Magic at the Texas Cruise Ship Terminal at the Port of Galveston.

LIFESTYLE

BOOK

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The book was two years in the making, prompted by county officials aiming to showcase all the county has to offer. A profiles section in the back of the 9-by-12 book describes the region's leading corporations and organizations. That section financed the cost of the book project so that no county funds were used.

County officials envisioned a book to be used as a development tool. In keeping with that aim, Mihovil recruited chamber of commerce staff from across the county to each write out a list of 10 photographs that would tell the story of their town.

With top-10 lists in hand, Mihovil loaded his car with lighting equipment, tripods and cameras, traveling to festivals, events and landmarks across the county. The mission took more than a year to complete.

"You really don't realize how big the county is 'til you drive the whole thing from one end to the other," he said. "It's huge."

Mihovil, who photographed for The Daily News in the 1980s and photographs now for the newspaper's Coast magazine, was no stranger to Galveston sights. But he was surprised by the variety of events that took place throughout the county.

"There are a lot of things over the causeway I didn't know about that I learned from doing this book," said Mihovil. He and his wife, Sally, a nurse at University of Texas Medical Branch, live in Galveston with their two Labrador retrievers, a Pomeranian and two cats.

The final collection of images include beaches, longhorn steers, windmills, beauty pageants, a train depot, the 1894 Grand Opera House, lighthouses, churches, coastal birds, the 1877 tall ship Elissa, historic homes, parades, band concerts, gardens, motorcycle rallies, sailboat regattas, a winery, tugboats, refineries, carnival rides, grain elevators, an oil tanker, rodeos, cruise ships, a biocontainment laboratory, a World War I

 **At a glance**

WHAT: "Coastal Visions: Images of Galveston County," a coffee-table book with 145 photographs showcasing the lifestyle, economy, amenities and events of Galveston County.

WHO: Galveston freelance photographer Robert John Mihovil provides the images. His work has appeared in publications ranging from National Geographic, Texas Highways and Newsweek to The Galveston County Daily News' Coast magazine. The author of the book is Leslie A. Watts, writer, editor, educator and owner of Island Ink and Informatics. Her freelance writing has appeared in numerous publications, including Continental Airlines in-flight magazine.

WHERE TO BUY: The book retails for \$49.95 and is available through Mihovil Photography, at 2402 Church St. in Galveston at 409-771-5668 or art@mihovil.com. Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Baybrook II, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd. in Webster, stock the book and also sell it online, www.barnesandnoble.com. **MORE INFO:** Visit Mihovil's online web gallery at www.mihovil.com. He teaches photography at the Texas A&M Sea Camp, www.tamug.edu/seacamp, and Galveston Island Arts Academy, www.galvestonislandartsacademy.com.

concrete ship and a roller coaster.

The most challenging assignment took him to NASA to photograph a mock-up of a new vehicle designed for long-range space travel. "It took a month to track down folks, to get special permission to get inside, to get clearances and a background check," he said.

The spacecraft provided a fitting finale for a portrait of the county. "Galveston and Galveston County have such a strong history and they look toward the future," he said.

LIBRARY EVENTS

» **DICKINSON Dickinson Public Library**

will offer its free Fall Story Time program for preschoolers at 10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at 4411 state Highway 3.

The program will include a variety of activities such as stories, flannel boards, films, finger plays, games and arts and crafts.

For information, call 281-534-3812.

» **TEXAS CITY Moore Memorial Public Library**

will offer Toddlers' Storytime for ages 1-2 at 10 a.m. Tuesdays in the Walter Holland Meeting Room of the library, 1701 Ninth Ave. N.

There will be stories, finger plays, rhymes, bubble time and play time offered.

Admission is free, but space is limited.

For information, call 409-643-5983.

» **SANTA FE**

Mae S. Bruce Library will have Preschool Story Hour for children 6 and younger at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Dec. 18 and Jan. 8 through May 7 at 13302 Sixth St.

There will be stories, silly songs and a fun craft or activity.

Visit www.maebruce.library.org or call 409-925-5540.

» **TEXAS CITY Moore Memorial Public Library**

will offer Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the Walter Holland Meeting Room of the library, 1701 Ninth Ave. N.

There will be stories, finger plays, alphabet learning, sign language and a different fun and educational activity or craft offered weekly.

Admission is free, but space is limited.

For information, call 409-643-5983.

» **Planning for the 2012 Galveston Reads, "The Big Year," by Mark Obmascik, is currently underway.**

Programming will take place between Feb. 13 through April 11.

To schedule a book discussion for your business, neighborhood or book club, call Karen Stanley, 409-763-8854, Ext. 119.

» **TEXAS CITY**

Book Bits will meet at 2 p.m. Jan. 2 in the Holland Meeting Room at Moore Memorial Public Library, 1701 Ninth Ave. N.

Participants can enjoy an informal group setting

in which they can share favorite books, authors, controversial titles and more. Call 409-643-5970.

» **TEXAS CITY**

The **Moore Memorial Public Library** will offer free computer classes at 10 a.m. in the meeting room of the library, 1701 Ninth Ave. N. on the following days:

- Jan. 3 — Basic Facebook;
- Jan. 4 — Blogging for beginners;
- Jan. 10 — Basic mouse;
- Jan. 11 — Basic Windows: Files and Saving;
- Jan. 17 — Basic Internet;
- Jan. 18 — Organize and backup your photos; and
- Jan. 24 — Fixing photos.

Potential students must come to the library between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the day of the class for pre-class screening.

Admission is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited.

For information, call 409-643-5977.

» **LEAGUE CITY**

Helen Hall Library will have an antiques round-table meeting at 1 p.m. Jan. 7 at 100 W. Walker St.

Call 281-554-1101. Visit www.leaguecitylibrary.org.

» **DICKINSON**

The **Readers' Round-**

table monthly reading group will meet at 1 p.m.

Jan. 8 in the Community Room at Dickinson Public Library, 4411 state Highway 3.

The group is open to those who want to discuss what they read, discover new authors or meet new friends.

Call 281-534-3812.

» **TEXAS CITY**

The Moore Memorial Public Library will offer a class on "**Stress Reduction in the Family**" at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 8 in the meeting room of the library, 1701 Ninth Ave. N.

A representative from the ESCAPE Family Resource Center will discuss reducing stress in the family unit.

For information, call 409-643-5977.

» **HITCHCOCK**

On the Same Page

Book Club will meet at 11 a.m. Jan. 9 at the Hitchcock Public Library, 8005 Barry Ave.

Refreshments will be served.

For information, call 409-986-7814, or visit www.hitchcockpubliclibrary.org.

» **LEAGUE CITY**

The **Helen Hall Library** welcomes local authors to meet from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 10 at 100 W. Walker St.

Call 281-554-1101 or visit www.leaguecityli

brary.org.

» **GALVESTON**

The **Saturday Morning Book Club** will meet at 10 a.m. Jan. 12 in the Robbie Farmer Memorial Library at Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St.

"Rules of Civility," by Amor Towles, will be discussed.

Call Joan Hyatt, 409-744-1657.

» **GALVESTON**

Rosenberg Library's Book Club will meet from noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 12 in the McCullough Room of the library, 2310 Sealy Ave.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Attendees also can take their own brown bag lunch.

Contact Gavin Sheaffer, reference@rosenberg-library.org or 409-763-8854, Ext. 118.

» **GALVESTON**

The **Monday Night Book Club** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 14 in the Robbie Farmer Memorial Library at Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St.

"Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English," by Natasha Solomons, will be discussed.

Call Joan Hyatt, 409-744-1657.

Email library events to Angela Taylor, community news editor, angela.taylor@galvnews.com, or call 409-683-5239.



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