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Issue 1123



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Moon

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October 23, 2025
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Flamingo By Debbie Noble



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By Dale Rankin
There is a lot going on *Around The Island* this week and here is some of it...

As you can see from the stories in this issue a couple of big Island projects crossed the finish line this week in the form of long-awaited improvements at Commodores Park and a skatepark at Billish Park. Both of these projects will contribute greatly to the quality of life *Around The Island*. For one thing Island pickleballers won't have to set up temporary nets in Aquarius Park anymore and Island tennis players won't have to go OTB. Once upon a time The Island had two tennis courts but those were torn down many years ago leaving us courtless but things are changing.

Under the Bridge

There is word this week that the design for improving the area under the JFK Bridge is now 60% complete. This project has been a work in progress since at least 2004 and we don't yet know exactly what it will look like but it has to be better than the current Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle.

Harbor Bridge

A firm schedule for the removal of the old Harbor Bridge has yet to be announced largely due to the need for a comfortable weather window for the work to be done. The latest word as we went to press mid-week is that it likely will be pushed back into November but that could change. Downtown is already getting ready by lining up viewing areas to watch the show that is a milestone in the history of The Coastal Bend. We will post updated schedule information on theislandmoonnewspaper Facebook page as it becomes available.

Wooden Boat Festival

The Wooden Boat Festival happens in Port Aransas this week. It celebrates the work done at the Farley Boat Works there and is an only-in-Port Aransas event. If you have never been to Roberts Point Park to see boats give it a try, it's something you won't see anywhere else.

Remembering Doc

Around cont. on A3

\$3.4 million in Commodores Park Improvements approved

Construction on pickleball and tennis courts, covered basketball court to start by year's end

By Dale Rankin

The Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday approved \$3.4 million in funding to begin work on Phase I of improvements to Commodores Park on Padre Island which include pickleball and tennis courts, a covered basketball court, walking trails and a playground.

According to information provided to the council this week work on the project will begin by the end of 2025 and be complete by August 2026.

The construction contract was
Commodores cont. on page A7



Pavilion



Commodores Park

Beachcombing Report

Nurdles Everywhere I Look!



Jace Tunnell holding nurdles on Mustang Island

By Jace Tunnell

This week while walking the beach, I focused my Beachcombing survey on a small but serious problem — nurdles. These are tiny plastic pellets, about the size of a lentil, that serve as the raw material used to make nearly all plastic products. You might not notice them at first, but once you spot one, you start to see them everywhere.

Using the same 10-minute survey method we use with the Nurdle Patrol program, I found 135 nurdles in 10 minutes of looking along the beach on Mustang

Beachcombing cont. on page A5

Color, Creativity, and a Coastal Muse

Introducing the 2026 Barefoot Mardi Gras Artist

By Melissa Mitchell,
Every great celebration starts with color—and nothing says color like Mardi Gras! From the shimmer of beads tossed beneath a bright coastal sky to the rhythm of laughter carried on the breeze, Barefoot Mardi Gras is the Island's way of



Artist, Kaleigh Glover

adding its own splash of sand and sunshine to a time-honored tradition. It's a day where the beach becomes Bourbon Street, where golf carts turn into floats, and where every wave seems to dance along with the music.

Art cont. on page A6

A little Island history

Doc Blankenship Passed Away at age 82 fifteen years ago this week

At 21 he had sailed around the world five times before making The Island his home

Editor's note. While most Islanders know of Doc's Seafood & Streaks which is a staple on Padre Island they may not know much about the man that is its namesake. Doc Blankenship passed away fifteen years ago this week and his impact is still with us. Doc was a long-time Islander and one of the great things about living on The Island



Doc Blankenship

was getting to know Doc and listening to his stories. About two years before his passing we twisted Doc's arm and got him to write us a history of his life. At 80 years young Doc had a complete recollection of locations, unit numbers, and dates of the places he had been and things

History cont. on A4

By the numbers

Commodores Park Improvements

\$4.45 million total construction in fiscal year 2026 (including \$1.2 million already spent)

\$1.2 million design cost already spent (\$400,000 from Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2)

Funding sources

\$5 million 2024 city bonds

\$1 million 2022 city bonds

\$400,000 TIRZ #2

\$6.4 million total allocation for project through fiscal year 2028

Check of Nueces County voting rolls identifies 41 "potential non-citizens" on Voting Rolls
2724 of 18 million registered voters across Texas identified for further investigation

By Dale Rankin
A records check found a total of 41 "potential non-citizens" on the voting rolls of Nueces County, according to results released this week by Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson.

As of November 2024 there were 218,401 registered voters in Nueces County according to records from the Nueces County Clerk's Office.

Voting cont. on page A6

By the numbers

Property value in Flour Bluff and Port Aransas ISDs

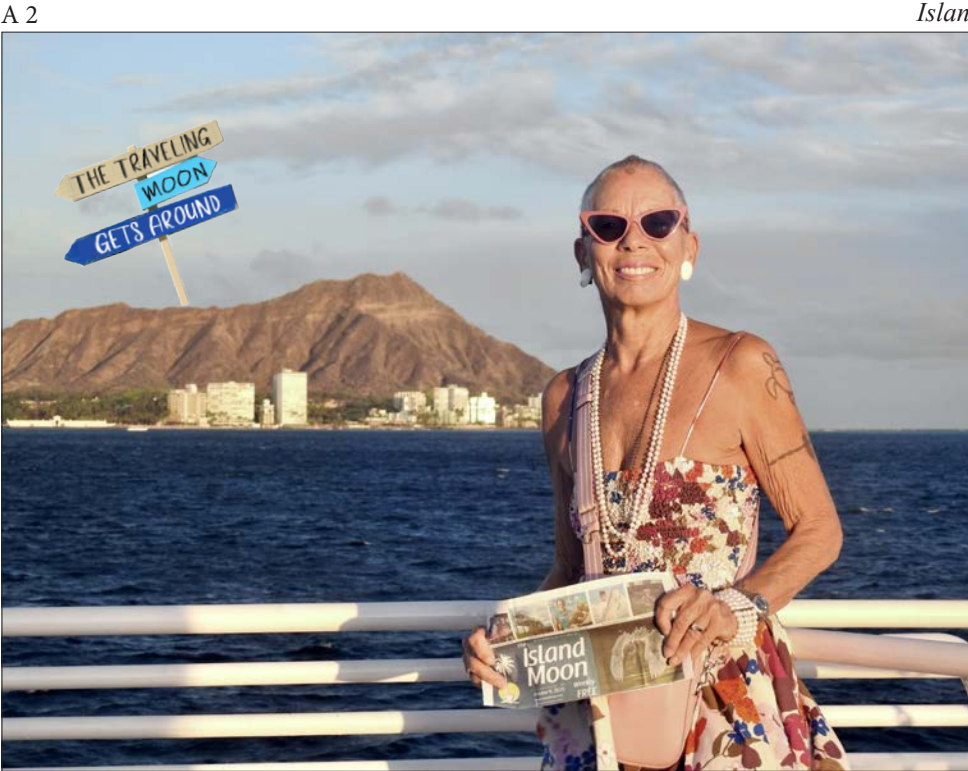
The Texas Comptroller's office this week released property values for school districts across the state. The numbers are current as of August 15, 2025.

Flour Bluff ISD

\$6.5 billion total value

\$5.3 billion Value of single family residences

\$170 million value of multi-family
Values cont. on page A3



Greetings from Honolulu, Hawaii. Here I'm on a Waikiki Sunset Cocktail Cruise with Diamond Head in the Background. Evelyn Pless-Schubert



Eddie and Angela Amaral took the Moon to Angela's home country Germany. The picture was taken on lake Pleinfeld close to Nürnberg, Bavaria.

Beach, Boos & BBQ Returns to Cinnamon Shore!

The best beach weather meets the best Texas barbecue at Cinnamon Shore's 3rd annual Beach, Boos & BBQ, happening Oct. 24-25! Harvest Happy Hour & Concert Friday night BBQ, carnival games & BOO-tique shopping Saturday. Live music, kids' crafts, costume contests & more. The event is open to the public, so grab your crew, dress in costume and join the fun!
<https://www.cinnamonshore.com/events/beach-boos-bbq/10844>



13 year old Ingleside boy wins Corpus Christi chess tournament.

Joshua Saegert started learning chess from his grandpa and dad when he was six years old. Later he joined the Third Coast Chess Club in Rockport. He made a lot of good friends, met a lot of good players, and his chess skills improved a lot. They participate in Chess Core chess tournaments in Corpus Christi monthly. In this month's chess tournament (called the Chess Core Halloween Tournament, which happened on Saturday the 18th), Joshua played in the middle school-high school merged division, and he beat out players above his category. He won first place in the middle school division. Also, the Third Coast Chess Club team got first place in the middle school division.



Community Events

MONDAYS

Tanned & Toned

Join Valray on the front lawn for a toning dance and defense class. Great for all ages.

WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

TUESDAYS

Canal Tours

Learn more about the Whitecap NPI community on a guided boat tour through the canals. Scheduled by appointment.

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WEDNESDAYS

Tai Chi & Chai Tea

Experience Tai Chi with Grand Master Mark on our front lawn, then unwind with a locally brewed Chai Tea from Coffee Waves.

WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

THURSDAYS

Captain's Reserve

Savor cigars from Padre Island Cigar Company paired with a rum tasting by Vida Cana Rum. Gather on the deck or dock.

WEEKLY @ 6:30 PM

SATURDAYS

Sunrise Yoga

Wake up at Whitecap with a guided sunrise yoga class on our front lawn or deck.

WEEKLY @ 7:00 AM

SUNDAYS

Bayview Brush & Bar

An evening of painting, coastal colors, and your drink of choice—guided by Padre Island Art Gallery on our front deck.

BI-WEEKLY @ 4:00 PM

Join us on the third Thursday of the month, with live music and local vendors on our front lawn.

4.00 PM - 7.00 PM

Whitecap Sales Center:
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The Brown Pelican's marriage is usually seasonal, and they are only monogamous for one breeding season at a time. Photo By Riekie Roncinske

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Letters to the Editor

◄ AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Social Security services still available during government shutdown

As Congress works to pass a new federal budget, the government is currently shut down. We know this raises questions. We have answers to the most commonly asked questions about how the shutdown impacts you.

Will the Shutdown Affect Payments?

No, it will not affect payments. If you receive benefits, payments will continue without interruption. You will receive your benefits on time, with no changes to payment dates.

What Services Are Available Online?

We are constantly expanding our online services to give you freedom and control when conducting business with Social Security.

Today, you can use your personal *my* Social Security account to:

- ☐ Request a replacement Social Security or Medicare card
- ☐ Access benefit verification letters
- ☐ Apply for benefits
- ☐ Check your application or appeal status
- ☐ Access your Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) notice up to three weeks earlier than by mail (if you sign up for digital notices before November 20)
- ☐ Change your address
- ☐ Set up or change direct deposit
- ☐ Print your 1099
- ☐ View your latest statement
- ☐ Review your earning history

Are Local Offices Open?

Offices are open, but not all in-person services are available. We encourage you to use your personal *my* Social Security account to easily access SSA services and benefits online. Log in to your existing account to access these services.

For more information, please check out this helpful blog post or visit our website for shutdown information.

U.S. Social Security Administration

Commodores Park

Improvements Phase I

Covered Basketball Court Pavilion: Providing a year-round sports venue.

Tennis and Pickleball Courts: With two tennis courts and four pickleball courts.

Playground: A fenced-in, shaded area with poured-in-place surfacing for safety.

Bird Observation Blind: Encouraging wildlife appreciation and education.

Concrete Walking Trail: For strolls and exercise.

Picnic Area: Designated space for family and community gatherings.

Parking and Accessibility: A concrete parking lot with golf cart accommodations and ADA accessibility throughout.

Park Lighting: Ensuring safety and extended use during evening hours.

Island Skatepark gets final approval

City Council votes funding

By Dale Rankin

Funding for a skatepark at Billish Park on The Island got final approval by the Corpus Christi City Council this week. The vote follows a vote by the Board of Directors of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) last week and clears the final hurdle for design and construction of the park to begin.

The fourteen-member TIRZ #2 board voted unanimously to repurpose up to \$850,000 in funds from TIRZ #2 previously earmarked for the paving of Island streets which now are expected to be placed on a 2026 bond issue. The council vote was to approve the recommendation by the TIRZ #2 board and

the Island Strategic Action Committee where the idea of reallocating money from the streets project to the park originated.

Jeff Edmonds, Director of Engineering Services for the City of Corpus Christi told the Island Moon after the TIRZ #2 vote that he believes construction on the Billish skate park can be expedited by incorporating the design of an existing skate park in West Guth City Park.

“We can get someone working on the design pretty quickly. We’ll try to mirror West Guth as much as possible,” Edmonds said. “I think we could have a park in place possibly by this time next year.”

Around cont. from A1

We feature a story this week about our friend Doc Blankenship who passed away fifteen years ago this week. If there is such a thing at the Original Islander Doc might be the guy. Each time we Islanders swapped stories with Doc we told him, “Doc, the difference between your stories and ours is that yours are actually true!” With the life Doc lived he didn’t have to make anything up and he is still missed *Around The Island*.

Barefoot Mardi Gras



The Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade is still a ways off but the artist to create this year’s logo has been chosen. The logo seen here was done by the Island Moon way back in 2010 and was used for many years. The parade this year will once again be along the beach and the seawall and the date has been juggled to account for the tide charts. Word *Around The Island* is that the Kings and Queens Party this year may be moved to OTB to allow for it to be a bigger event.

La Posada

Values cont. from A1

Flour Bluff ISD

\$6.5 billion total value

\$5.3 billion Value of single family residences

\$170 million value of multi-family dwellings

\$296 million value of vacant lots

\$374 million value of commercial real estate currently on the market

\$28 million value of mobile homes

\$1.9 billion value of total tax deductions

\$4.6 billion total taxable value of property in district before state-mandated reductions in appraised value

\$638 million loss of taxable value due to state mandated homestead exemptions (not including reductions currently before voters in Nov. 4 ballot)

Port Aransas ISD

\$6.5 billion total taxable value of property in district before state-mandated reductions in appraised value

\$5.7 billion Value of single family residences

\$53 million value of multi-family dwellings

\$627 million value of vacant lots

\$513 million value of commercial real estate currently on the market

\$2.7 million value of mobile homes

\$726 million value of total tax deductions

\$161 million loss of taxable value due to state mandated homestead exemptions (not including reductions currently before voters in Nov. 4 ballot) and 50% of loss due to local optional percentage homestead exemption

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History cont. from A1

he had done. What follows is Doc's story in his own words. Those who knew Doc won't be surprised that he wrote it in the third person, otherwise it might have seemed like bragging.

At the time of his death, Doc was the highest-decorated living doctor in the U.S. Navy. He left behind his wife of 58 years, Carolyn Keeling Blankenship; his daughter, Roberta Blankenship Soward and husband, Fred; his daughter, Jean Ann Blankenship Paluseo, and husband, Jeff; and his five grandchildren: Jackson and Cassidy Soward, Jayden, Journey and Jazlyn Paluseo, and his extended family and friends. This one's for you Doc.

By Dr. Billy (Doc) Blankenship

Dr. Billy J. Blankenship DDS, MD, Captain, MC, U.S. Navy (Ret) , a fifth generation Texan, was born in Longview, Texas on February 13, 1928 to a school teaching mother and a railroad locomotive engineer father. His father served with the 90th Infantry Division in France in World War I, and was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross. He was later gassed but survived a German attack with mustard gas while fighting on the front line. Doctor Blankenship's grandfather served in the Texas Militia and both great grandfathers served in the CSA during the Civil War. Dr. Blankenship grew up in Mineola, Texas, and at an early age was recommended for the Carnegie Medal for Heroism for rescuing an elderly woman from her burning home. He was a Boy Scout and also lettered in football and track at the age of 14 and scored several touchdowns as a varsity end. In early 1943, after working as a locomotive fireman and engineer for 28 years his father became a Company Official and was promoted to Road Forman of Engines. We then moved to Ft Worth where he became a Texas and Pacific Rail Road official with offices in the T&P main office building.

In Ft. Worth he was ineligible to play football, but he was allowed to participate and lettered in Track events and during the summer he and several Mineola friends worked in the T&P shops as machinist apprentices for 25 cents per hour. He graduated at the age of 16 from Polytechnic High School, Fort Worth, in 1944 and immediately entered Army ROTC Training at North Texas Agricultural College (NTAC). At age 17, he volunteered for the U.S. Merchant Marines and attended U.S. Maritime School at Catalina Island, California, where he received U.S. Coast Guard papers for service in the deck force of U.S. merchant vessels. He served aboard a troop transport in the Pacific and during the invasion of Okinawa went ashore with the troops for a short period of land combat. He later served aboard tankers and freighters in the Atlantic, Pacific, Mediterranean, Indian, North Sea and Persian Gulf. By the time he was 21 years old, he had sailed around the world 5 times on ships.

Upon reaching 18 years of age he volunteered for the Regular Navy and served two years in the Pacific aboard destroyers as a Seaman and Sonarman 3rd Class. After discharge from the Navy, he again sailed merchant ships all over the world for another three years, served briefly with General Chiang Kai-Shek Forces during the fall of Tientsin, China and ended his career as a Licensed Third Deck Officer (unlimited) after graduating with highest honors ever from the Southern Navigation and Marine Engineering School. He presently holds a USCG Master's License, Mechanical and Auxiliary Sail (limited).

In 1951, after six years of sea duty, Bill returned to Arlington State College for one semester and then moved on to received B.S., B. A. and M.Ed. degrees with honors and highest honors from Stephen F. Austin State College, Nacogdoches TX. He was a

Biology Laboratory Instructor under Dr. Edwin Miller for two years. While in college he married Carolyn Keeling, a school teacher, and they later had three girls, Roberta, Jimmie, and CDR Jean Ann Blankenship, USNR.

Dr. Blankenship is a 1958 honor graduate of the University of Texas Dental Branch-Houston, where he received the D.D.S. degree and was elected to OKU Honor Dental Society. He also received a two year U.S. Public Health Service Post-doctoral Fellowship to pursue Ph.D. studies at Baylor University College of Medicine. He was commissioned a LT, Dental Corps, USNR in 1958 and organized, commissioned and commanded USNR Dental Company 8-3 in Houston during this time period. He also served as Battalion Dental Officer with the First Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, FMF, USMCR in Houston.

He is a 1963 honor graduate of the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston where he received his M.D. degree, was elected to AOA Honor Medical Society, and completed internship and residency training to become a Board Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. In 1967, he became Assistant Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery until entering private practice in Harlingen, Texas in 1969. During this period, he served as Battalion Surgeon with 1/23, 4th MarDiv, FMF, USMCR in Houston, TX and Delta Company, 4th Amphibious Tractor Battalion, FMF, USMCR in Galveston, TX. He also attended the US Army Parachute School at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Service in Vietnam and after

In 1966, Dr. Blankenship volunteered to serve in Vietnam with the U.S. State Department and U.S. Navy as a surgeon, working at times with U.S. Special Forces (5th out of NaTrang) and Vietnamese Special Forces. He received several commendations from the Government of South Vietnam, and the State Department of the United States and the Humanitarian Service Award from the American Medical Association. He was also wounded when his USAF C-130 was hit by ground fire.

In 1971, Dr. Blankenship was appointed Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio. While there, he served as a Major in the USAFR as a Flight Surgeon and Hospital Commander, and logged 500 hours in C-130 aircraft with the 433rd Tactical Airlift Wing. He graduated from the USAF Aerospace Medicine School and later graduated from the USAF Air Command and Staff College and then later from the Air War College.

Dr. Blankenship again entered the U.S. Navy as a Commander on active duty in 1974, attended Submarine and Diving school, and Naval Special Warfare training (UDT/SEAL) and served two years in the Western Pacific operating out of Subic Bay, Philippines in USS GRAYBACK (SS-574) as the Submarine and Diving Medical Officer for Naval Special Warfare (UDT/SEALS) and the 7th Fleet. On one Special Operation (SpecOp) with a SEAL team, Intelligence predicted that there was a 90% chance of losing the SEAL team and a 50% chance of losing the submarine! In 1977, he was promoted to Captain and became the Force Medical Officer for the Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, with headquarters at the CINCLANTFLT Compound, Norfolk VA, where he was the doctor for 26,000 submariners and deep sea divers. He also served short tours on several nuclear fast attack and fleet ballistic missile submarines.

Part II Continues Next Week



Doc and Carolyn Blankenship at Taste of The Island in 2010.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Sometimes you just have to slow down and smell the palm trees.

For the past eighteen years in these pages I have chronicled the vicissitudes of pushing the Island Rock up the hill to try and claw back our fair share of the money we airmail across the bridge in the form of property taxes – 14% of the total in Nueces County; Hotel Occupancy Tax – we provide one-quarter of the annual \$20 million even as the cost overruns at the downtown convention center continue to bleed red ink.

The first year I took over the *Island Moon* the Mayor, Henry Garrett, who at the time lived on The Island, spoke to the Padre Island Business Association at the old Padre Isles Country Club as he was getting ready to run for re-election I asked him “What has the city done for The Island in the past five years?” A few days later I got an email from him with the answer. “We’ve picked up 80,000 tons of trash with the Litter Critter,” it read. Our parks were overgrown, our streets were full of potholes, the area under the JFK Bridge was a mud hole (still is), and there were no restrooms on our beaches. As I look back now things are not perfect but looking through the other end of the binoculars I can finally see some light at the end of the tunnel. When I began Packery Channel was only a year old and since has become the catalyst for the large Island projects we see going on around us and continues to be the project that keeps on giving.

The Projects

As of this week we now have long-awaited improvements coming to Commodores Park - we have been trying to get tennis courts on The Island since the days before anyone ever heard of pickleball, then this week came final approval for an Island skatepark – more on that later. Next door to the park the Commodores Dr. bridge is finished and the opening of Island canals to flow-through boat traffic will in some sense be the final piece of the improvements that were envisioned when Packery Channel was cut through two decades ago. As we look around our Island now we see more than \$40 million in bridge work, two new bridges and reinforcement of old ones, in anticipation of an integrated canal system with direct access from the Laguna Madre to the gulf and we are very close. That will be a game changer.

A look at the Michael J. Ellis Seawall these days finds a new hotel with meeting space on the way that comes decades after waiting and is only happening because of an effort at city hall to clear up the responsibility for seawall maintenance that had been hanging fire since 1983.

Everywhere we look we can see progress that has been decades in the making, so how did we get here?



Packery channel under construction October 10, 2004.



Yellow-throated Warbler at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
By Britt Thompson

A common denominator

In each of the projects mentioned above there is one common denominator and that is the Island Strategic Action Committee. Just this month a vote was taken at ISAC to repurpose funds from Island paper streets to be used for a skatepark and as we sit here today just three weeks later the park is funded through the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 and approved by the Corpus Christi City Council and now headed for design and bids. That would not have happened without ISAC.

The board of TIRZ #2 is made up of elected officials at city hall and the county commissioners court, both of which have city and county wide responsibility and are decision making bodies and fly at that level. They are generalists and if we had to take every Island project to them it would create a bottleneck that would have blocked almost all of the projects listed above and that doesn't take into account the political cover provided by ISAC. It is a rare convergence of good governance and good politics for our city council members to be able to refer Island issues to ISAC before coming to the council level. Fifteen years of experience in the years since the formation of ISAC bears that out.

The bridges mentioned above would also not have happened without ISAC. What is now the Don Patricio Bridge was stalled until ISAC got involved and pushed through \$4 million from the TIRZ #2 to pay for it. The cost of the Commodores Dr. bridge will be reimbursed through the TIRZ #2 at the suggestion of ISAC. Approval of the maintenance plan for the Ellis Seawall went through ISAC and the improvements are now funded at \$2 million per year until the work is done. The Commodores Park improvements also were vetted and prioritized by ISAC. The Island's Riley P. Dog Park went through ISAC. The Island Mobility Plan is now headed for council after being revamped by ISAC and is the future of The Island. The list goes on.

The Island's ISAC is the only one of its kind in the city and came about in 2010 when the logjam of city projects that couldn't catch traction at city hall created the obvious need for some kind of Island entity made up of Islanders that could vet projects and sort out the details on this side of the bridge and fifteen years later the proof that it works is all around us.

We still got the Litter Critter and from where I sit the palm trees smell pretty good. And it all leads back to ISAC.

Nature Notes

The Coloration of Birds

By Megan Hobratschk



A Green Turaco
By Ian Wilson, via Wikimedia Commons

Have you ever wondered why some birds are so colorful compared to others? The color of a bird’s feathers is determined by structural elements and/or pigmentation, which are colored substances. In one special case, discussed later, feather color is produced by a combination of both.

When thinking of colors in general, pigmentation is what comes to my mind. In terms of feather color, there are three types of pigmentation. The first type of pigment is melanin, which is the same pigment that produces different hair colors and skin tones in humans. The concentration of melanin, or lack thereof, found in a feather results in white, brown, or black feathers, and can also produce feathers that are reddish-brown and pale yellow. Interestingly, many birds have darker feathers on their wings, as feathers with higher amounts of melanin are stronger and more resistant to wear.

The second type of pigmentation is carotenoids, which is the same pigment that results in the orange color of a carrot! Like in a carrot, carotenoids produce oranges, yellows, and red in a birds’ feathers. Lastly, the most diverse feather pigments are known as porphyrins. Porphyrins fluoresce under ultraviolet light and can result in pink, red, brown, and green feathers.

Another source of color in feathers is structural. Structural feather color is produced as light refracts, or bends, off of keratin proteins in the feather. This is the same protein that makes up our hair and nails! Structural feathers can be iridescent, like in hummingbirds, or non-iridescent, like in Blue Jays.

You may have realized that the color blue was not mentioned when discussing pigmentation. Interestingly, blue is one of the

only feather colors that is almost exclusively produced structurally. If you find a blue feather from a Blue Jay on the ground, try backlighting it by holding it up to a light. Because the blue light is no longer being reflected back, the feather will appear brown from the melanin present in the feather.

I want to specifically highlight the color green in bird feathers. There is only one group of birds in the world that has true green feathers: the Turacos. Turacos have a special copper pigment known as Turacoverdin, which produces their bright green coloration. You might think, “I see birds with green feathers all of the time!” While this is true, most green color in birds is produced by a combination of yellow pigment and blue structural color. This means the green feathers on most birds aren’t actually green, they just appear that way due to the mixing of yellow pigment found in the feather and the scattering of blue light by the small structural elements in the feather.

As the weather cools down, I encourage you to take a few minutes from your day to see how many different colored birds you can find in your area. You might be surprised by what you find!



Monk Parakeet

Beachcoming cont. from A1



Nurdles found in Mountain Creek Lake in Dallas

Island. That’s a lot for one short stretch of sand, but it’s nothing compared to what I recently found in Dallas, Texas, on Mountain Creek Lake. There, I counted 13,000 nurdles in 10 minutes — the highest concentration I’ve ever recorded personally.

After checking out the interactive map at NurdlePatrol.org, it’s clear that Houston leads the country in the number of nurdles collected during 10-minute surveys. It’s no coincidence. Houston is also home to one of the largest plastic manufacturing and transportation hubs in the nation, with countless facilities where nurdles are made, melted, or shipped to make everyday products.

These pellets don’t stay put. They spill during production, transport, or loading and make their way into waterways through storm drains and runoff. From there, they flow downstream to our rivers, bays, and beaches. I’ve seen them along railroads, lakeshores, and coastlines across the country. They’re practically everywhere I look.

The impacts are real. Fish and birds mistake nurdles for food. They can absorb harmful contaminants like PCBs and pesticides, which then enter the food chain. And visually, they’re one more reminder of the plastic pollution problem we face today.

I’m not against plastic — it’s part of modern life — but there needs to be accountability for the billions of nurdles lost to the environment each year. These pellets don’t disappear, and unless we take action to stop the spills at their source, the next generation will be left dealing with a problem we already know how to fix. Want to help solve the problem? Join our efforts at NurdlePatrol.org.

Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on YouTube and you can follow Jace at harterresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harterresearch), Instagram (@harterresearch) and X (@HarteResearch) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



Handful of nurdles collected on Mustang Island this week.



Linear Beauty By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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Great Blue herons use their excellent eyesight to spot prey from a distance and can strike with lightning-fast speed. Riekie Roncinske

Nelson’s office this week released the results of a comparison of voter lists across all 254 Texas counties which included more than 18 million voters with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ SAVE database and found at total of 2,724 “potential noncitizens” registered to vote in Texas. According to Nelson, those voter files were provided to Texas counties this week, who will now conduct their own investigations into the eligibility of these voters as part of their statutory responsibilities to remove ineligible voters from the rolls under Chapter 16 of the Texas Election Code. and individuals who are deemed noncitizens that voted in a Texas election will be referred to the Office of the Attorney General. The process for removing noncitizens from the rolls is outlined under Sections 16.033 and 16.0332 of the Texas Election Code.

Voters identified as potential non-citizens will receive a notice from the county voter registrar. These individuals may present proof of citizenship in order to remain a registered voter. If a response is not received by the county in 30 days, the registration will be cancelled. In the event that a registration is cancelled, it can be immediately reinstated by providing proof of U.S. citizenship to an elections office or at a polling location.

Nelson said Texas was among the first states to partner with USCIS to compare its voter list with the SAVE database. In its initial review, the agency focused on those who may have voted illegally in the November 2024 election. That process led to a referral of 33 voters to the Office of the Attorney General in June.

Findings across the state

The number of “potential non-citizens” referred to counties across the state are as follows:

362 Harris County (Houston)

277 Dallas County

201 Bexar County (San Antonio)

165 El Paso County

149 Hidalgo County (Edinburg)

145 Tarrant County (Ft. Worth)

109 Collin County (McKinney – Dallas area)

97 Travis County (Austin)

84 Denton County

75 Webb County (Laredo)

68 Cameron County (Brownsville)

55 Fort Bend County (Richmond – Houston area)

48 Brazoria County (Angleton – Houston area)

42 Bell County (Belton)

41 Nueces County

37 Jefferson County (Beaumont)

30 McLennan County (Waco)

30 Montgomery County (Conroe – Houston area)

28 Williamson County (Georgetown – Austin area)

24 Lubbock County

21 Maverick County (Eagle Pass)

21 Brazos County (Bryan)

18 Liberty County (East Texas)

17 Midland County

16 Galveston County

15 Val Verde County (Del Rio)

12 Starr County (Rio Grande City)

11 Hale County (Panhandle)

10 Comal County (New Braunfels)

10 Kaufman County (Northeast Texas)

10 Tom Greene County (San Angelo)

10 Wichita County (Wichita Falls)

Art cont. from A1

For locals and visitors alike, Barefoot Mardi Gras is more than a parade—it’s a community celebration of life on the Island. It’s about coming together, rain or shine, to honor the things we love most: our people, our creativity, and our coastal spirit. And this year, the creative spark behind that celebration belongs to a local artist whose work radiates with it. Melissa Mitchell in collaboration with the Padre Island Business Association is proud to announce that Kaleigh Glover has been selected as the Official Artist for Barefoot Mardi Gras 2026. Known for her vibrant murals, playful Birds on Blocks series, and richly layered coastal paintings, Kaleigh brings a style that’s as full of movement and joy as the event itself.

The Artist Behind the Brush

If you’ve ever driven through Port Aransas or downtown Corpus Christi, you’ve likely already met Kaleigh’s work—though maybe not her name. Her murals seem to hum with color and life: oversized tropical blooms, swirling waves, playful birds mid-flight or mid-laugh. There’s a kind of personality to her art—an ability to make the ordinary extraordinary. A Corpus Christi native and Texas A&M–Corpus Christi graduate, Kaleigh’s fascination with the creatures and colors of the coast runs deep. “I’m inspired by what’s around me... birds, boats, beaches—everything has a story.” Her art brings that story forward, layering color, texture, and imagination into something distinctly her own.

Her paintings often blur the line between realism and whimsy. In her *Birds on Blocks* series, seabirds surf, fish, and drive classic cars under palm-lined skies—a playful nod to the humor and heart of coastal living. In her murals, sweeping brushstrokes transform blank walls into living canvases of tropical wonder. And just like the coast itself, her art never stands still.

Kaleigh doesn’t just paint—she creates connection. Through her business, The Art Project, LLC, she’s guided workshops, collaborated with local businesses, and brought public art to life across the region. From the Executive Surf Club’s colorful walls to Farley Boats in Port Aransas, her work has become part of the visual heartbeat of the Coastal Bend. She’s also helped other artists find their footing, organizing and installing group

shows for Nueces Brewing Co. and mentoring new creators along the way. Her passion for collaboration mirrors the very spirit of Barefoot Mardi Gras—joyful, inclusive, and full of movement.

A Collaboration Rooted in Creativity

Each year, Barefoot Mardi Gras partners with Melissa Mitchell to coordinate and spotlight a local artist whose work embodies the fun, freedom, and flair of Island life. Together, the organizations celebrate what makes our community shine: creativity, collaboration, and a shared love of the coast. Kaleigh’s official theme for 2026 is still under wraps (and tightly guarded), but we can tell you this—it will be in her signature voice and distinctly Island-inspired. Expect energy. Expect color. And expect something that feels uniquely Barefoot Mardi Gras. Last year’s limited-edition art collaboration with M. Kelly Olsen set the bar high—introducing a tradition that marries art, celebration, and philanthropy. This year’s partnership with Kaleigh continues that story, adding her own brush of humor, imagination, and heart to the magic of Barefoot Mardi Gras. The Big Reveal event is set for November, when the artwork will be unveiled in partnership with the Padre Island Business Association. As with last year, limited-edition prints will be hand-signed, numbered, and available for collectors, with the original artwork auctioned to benefit local charities supported by Barefoot Mardi Gras. The excitement is already building. Until then, we’ll all just have to imagine what she’s dreamed up this time. But if her past work is any hint, it’s sure to make waves. The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and inspiration from our coastal community. Have a story to share or an upcoming event? Reach out to me at contact@melissamitchellart.com.

Pssst...

We’re stepping away from the traditional... the expected— and into something brand new. Something more personal. Something better. Reimagining takes courage—and a little bit of chaos. *The sketches, the samples, the “what-ifs”—they’re all part of creating something meaningful.*—Melissa, Padre Island Art Gallery ☐ Stay tuned — a fresh chapter is taking shape.



Birds on Blocks by Kaleigh Glover

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Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

The Land Rush Of 1889

The Land Rush of 1889 was the first land run into the Unassigned Lands of the former western portion of the federal Indian Territory, which had decades earlier, since the 1830s, been assigned to the Creek and Seminole native peoples. The area that was opened to settlement included all or part of the Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma, and Payne counties of the present-day U.S. state of Oklahoma. The land run started at high noon (12:00 pm) on April 22, 1889. An estimated 50,000 people were lined up at the start, seeking to gain a piece of the available two million acres. Thanks to my dad, Dotson Garton Lewis Senior, and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Map of Oklahoma 1892

The Unassigned Lands were considered some of the best unoccupied public land in the United States. The Indian Appropriations Act of 1889 was passed and signed into law with an amendment by U.S. Representative (congressman) William McKendree Springer (1836-1903), (Republican of Illinois) that authorized 23rd President Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901, served 1889-1893), to open the two million acres of the western portion of the remaining Indian Territory (established in 1834 with a much greater allotment set aside for the southeastern native tribes of extensive lands of the previous Louisiana Purchase of 1803, west of the Mississippi River), during the administration of 7th President Andrew Jackson (1767-1845, served 1829-1837). The additional land opening being authorized by Congress also included the adjacent western Unassigned Lands for settlement. A quarter-century earlier, the 16th President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865, served 1861-1865), had earlier signed the famous Homestead Act of 1862 during the American Civil War which allowed settlers to claim lots of up to 160 acres (0.65 km²), provided that they lived on the land and improved it for several years. During the mid-19th century, the time when the American Civil War was at its peak, President Abraham Lincoln developed a strategy to increase land ownership and development by signing the Homestead Act into law. It was intended to open western lands to allow people to settle on what the government considered to be «idle» tracts of land. The majority of occupants in Indian Territory (which became most of present-day Oklahoma) belonged to the so-called Five Civilized Tribes: the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole, who had been forcibly removed in the 1830s from their traditional territories in the Southeast. The government passed an Act called the Dawes Severalty (or Dawes Act) in 1887 that aimed to extinguish communal tribal holdings. It proposed that the tribes' communal lands be allocated to heads of households by 160-acre plots, to encourage them to adopt subsistence farming. A stated aim of the Act was to enhance assimilation of tribal members to mainstream European-American practices. It markedly reduced the amount of land owned by the tribes, because the government declared as 'surplus' any lands left over after distribution, and made them available for sale to non-Native Americans. The settlers were also allowed to take up the subdivided land in many places. However, the Dawes Act was not enforced on the five tribes that were considered civilized since they were later exempted. The exemption was to take effect until the year 1902, when the household heads of the five "civilized" tribes were to take 160-acre plots. After the Civil War, the other Indian tribes that had been relocated to the Territory had been assigned approximately one half of the total landmass occupied by the five tribes. The five tribes had allied with the Confederacy and were forced to give up some of the Indian lands. On April 22, 1889, the day that the government had set aside for the settlement, the crowd in the Oklahoma settlement land was overwhelming. When the signal for the process of land registration was raised, thousands

of people rushed across the border as the Oklahoma land rush began. Approximately fifty thousand people; young and old, men and women rushed to try their luck in acquiring the 12,000 land tracts that were available.



Land Rush In Progress

The removal of Native Americans to Indian Territory started after the election of Andrew Jackson to the presidency in 1828. He believed that Indian Removal from the Southeast was needed to extinguish Native American land claims and enable development by European Americans in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, which still had numerous Native Americans occupying their territories. President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act on May 28, 1830. The Choctaw were the first tribe to concede to removal in 1830. They agreed to give up their land and move to the designated Indian Territory. The main portions of the Choctaw tribe moved to Indian Territory from 1830 to 1833, with the promise that they would be granted autonomy and receive annuities to aid in resettlement. Many died on the long journey to the new territory. The Creek were the next tribe to move to Indian Territory. In 1829 they had held a council, agreeing that they would submit to state laws in order to stay on their lands. But, continued pressure from settlers and the state government resulted in the Creek ceding most of its lands in what became Alabama to the United States. By 1836, the entire Creek Tribe had been removed to Indian Territory. They had suffered armed conflict with settlers and effectively a civil war within the bands of the tribe. The Cherokee were the third tribe to be removed to Indian Territory. Tribal leaders Chief John Ross, and other high-ranking families worked to keep their lands, challenging Georgia state actions against them. They were upheld by the US Supreme Court in *Worcester v. Georgia*, which said that Georgia had no authority over them. But President Jackson refused to enforce the ruling that recognized the Cherokee Nation as a community with its own boundaries, and that Georgia residents could not enter their lands without consent of the Cherokee. Chief John Ross believed that removal was inevitable and worked to gain the best deal possible from the federal government. Opponents gained a new treaty, but by the end of the 1830s, most of the tribe was forced to remove to Indian Territory, accompanied by US military forces. By the end of 1838, most of the Cherokee tribe had been fully removed from the Southeast. Those who remained became state and federal citizens without tribal standing. Of the 18,000 who traveled west from 1835 to 1838, about 4,000 died on what became known as the Trail of Tears. The Chickasaw elected to leave their lands freely and did not suffer like the Cherokee tribe. The tribe had adopted some European-American practices: gaining some formal education for their children, building churches, and farming. They struggled with encroachment by the state government of Mississippi. Beginning in 1832 they signed a collection of treaties with the U.S. and gained some better terms than the other tribes. They left for Indian Territory in the winter of 1837-38 and paid the Choctaw to be able to settle on some of their lands. The Seminole Tribe was tricked into signing a removal treaty and the Seminole War is what followed. This was the bloodiest and costliest Indian war in United States history. Chief Osceola and his tribe hid in the Everglades in Florida, where the military sought to hunt them down. Many were captured and sent to Indian Territory in chains. Osceola surrendered and died in prison. The war and removal reduced their population by 40%. The Seminole in the Everglades never surrendered and their descendants today comprise two federally recognized tribes in the state. According to the 1859 census, 2,254 Seminole remained in Florida.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Commodores cont. from A1

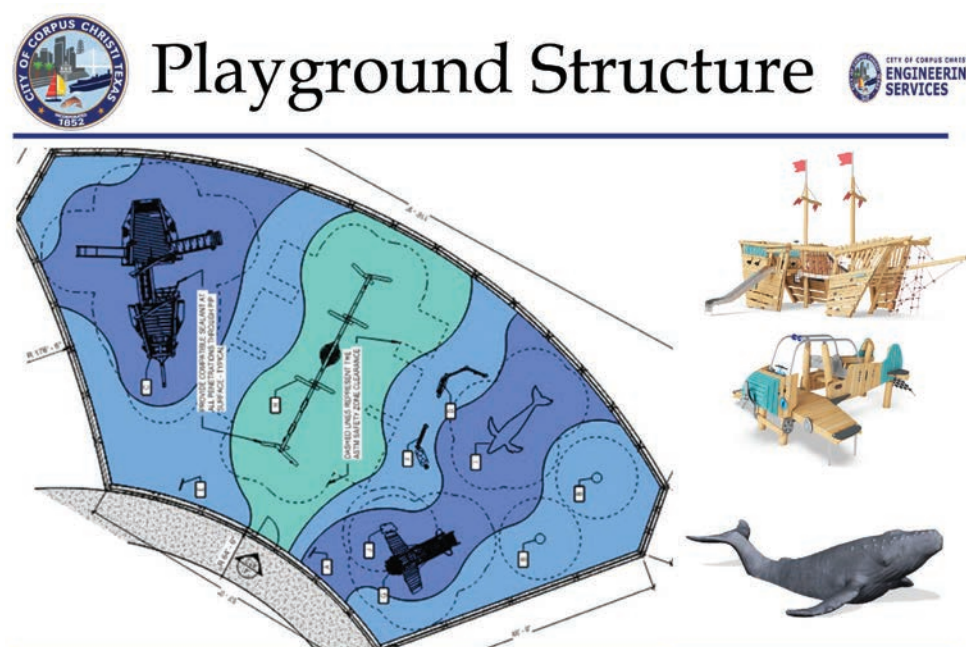
awarded to Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Inc. of Corpus Christi for a total of \$3,448,147 with funds from \$175 million in city bonds approved by voters in an amount of \$1 million for design of the Commodore Park Improvement Project with the 2022 Bond program. In June 2024, \$400,000 was authorized from TIRZ#2 Fund for design. Commodore Park is the largest park on Padre Island at 19 acres with the implement building which houses beach maintenance equipment taking up about five acres leaving 12 acres available for future improvements.

The Phase 1 project scope includes one covered basketball court pavilion, two tennis courts, four pickleball courts, a fenced in shaded playground area with poured-in-place surfacing, a bird observation blind, a concrete walking trail, a designated picnic area, a concrete parking lot with golf cart accommodations, ADA accessibility throughout, park lighting for safety and extended use.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Commodores Park project will include a community pool (with ADA access, five swim lanes, public restroom, and pump house), a pool house (single story air-conditioned building for access to the community pool and gymnasium), a gymnasium (single story air conditioned gym to include indoor basketball court, office space, restrooms, and locker rooms), a community center (an event space area to include catering kitchen concessions, office storage, and restrooms), additional parking, sidewalks, lighting, and site work. Phase 2 of the improvements may be included in a 2026 city bond package now under development.

The planned improvements at the park were compiled after a series of public input meetings beginning in 2024. Plans call for the entry points of the new trails at Commodores Park to be interfaced with the trails now under construction at the adjacent Whitecap NPI development.

Aerial Plan



Volunteer Spotlight:

Midge Epstein – Serving with Heart on the Island

By Arlas Blackwell

For the past several years, Midge Epstein has been a dedicated CASA volunteer and proud resident of North Padre Island. Since being sworn in as a CASA advocate on August 4, 2021, she has served on eight cases and stays connected with most of the families she has supported.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Coastal Bend's mission is to advocate for the best interest of children in Nueces and Aransas County foster care. Our trained Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) gather information and evaluate the needs of the children. These volunteers work collaboratively with families and other associated professionals to provide valuable information to the judge. A CASA volunteer is a consistent presence in a child's life during the process of the case. The goal is a world where every abused or neglected child is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

Midge first learned about CASA years ago, but it was not until her retirement that she found the time to get involved. Before volunteering, she worked with the American Heart Association as National Executive Vice President from 1995 to 2020. Midge and her husband, Richard, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, have three grown children—Rose, Robert, and Victoria, all of whom graduated from Flour Bluff. Robert is doing his residency in Anesthesia in New Orleans, where Rose also lives. Victoria is in her fourth year of medical school and applying for residency programs in OB-GYN.

Finding Her Calling

After retiring, Midge wanted to do something new. When she saw an advertisement for a CASA of the Coastal Bend Info Session, she decided to attend—and was immediately drawn to the mission. "It's rare that you are put to work so quickly as a volunteer," she said. "I saw an immediate need and was given meaningful work within days of being sworn in."

Midge thrives in CASA's structured, well-organized environment and appreciates how seriously the judges take the advocates' recommendations. "You really feel that your voice matters," she shared.

Advocating Beyond Expectations

Her early experiences as a CASA volunteer taught her resilience and creativity. On one case, she reached out to her Padre Island Neighbors Facebook group to find furniture, appliances, and essentials for a mother in need—and the community responded generously. "People were so giving," she said. "Within days, the family had everything they needed."

A Case That Changed Everything

One of Midge's most memorable cases involved a pair of siblings now diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Having just completed training through the American Pediatric Association, Midge recognized the signs of FASD and advocated for evaluations and services for the children. Her advocacy extended to the parents as well, both of whom struggled with substance



use disorders. Midge personally helped the mother by transporting her to an inpatient rehabilitation program. Although the parents have now been over a year sober, it was determined that the children be adopted by their foster parents. Midge remains in touch with everyone involved and through her advocacy, she has been able to encourage positive and open communication between the birth parents and the soon-to-be adoptive parents. "Seeing the compassion and communication between the families has been a blessing," she said.

A Lifelong Learner and Advocate

Her commitment to learning extends beyond her cases. Midge approaches every case with an eagerness to learn and grow. She even attended the 9th International Research Conference on FASD in Seattle, Washington. "Every case teaches me something new," she said. "As much as I put in, I get so much more out of it."

Her faith is central to her volunteer work. "In a world so filled with discord, this is a way to show love," she shared. She lives by the mantra, "From those to whom much is given, much is required."

Advice for Future Volunteers

When asked what she would tell someone considering volunteering, Midge said she could not have taken on the role until after retirement because of her extensive travel schedule—but now, she cannot imagine her life without CASA. "The family is at the core of our society," she said. "Some children are born into healthy families, and some are not—but we have the opportunity to help every child have a healthy, supportive family."

Life beyond CASA

In her spare time—what little there is—Midge volunteers with St. John United Methodist Church in Austin, serves on a CASA planning committee, enjoys reading and traveling, and stays active with daily workouts at Island Fitness.

CASA of the Coastal Bend

If you are interested in learning more about CASA, visit their website at www.coastalbendcasa.org or call Arlas Blackwell, Training and Recruitment manager, at 361-443-4059.

Disturbance on Peaceful Lane!

AT&T Infrastructure Improvements Coming to Flour Bluff Drive from Purdue Road to Peaceful Lane

Work Scheduled to begin October 20 runs through November 9

An AT&T contractor will begin infrastructure improvements on Flour Bluff Drive, extending through Purdue Road and Peaceful Lane, starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October, and continuing through November 9.

The planned work involves boring and installing underground fiber along Flour Bluff Drive, between Purdue Road and Peaceful Lane. Flaggers will be present at both Purdue Road and Pleasant Drive to assist with traffic control and ensure the safety of motorists and workers.

During this period, construction crews will be active in the area, implementing traffic control measures to ensure the safety of both workers and motorists.

Residents and motorists are encouraged to exercise caution in the area, follow posted signage, and be aware of potential delays during construction hours.

All access to businesses and neighborhoods in the area will be maintained, and crews will remain diligent in minimizing disruptions.



Skipper Tales

Coffee on the Coast

By: Tess Clark

The sun yawns awake through a watercolor sky,
Waves roll in slow with a hush and a sigh.
You hand me my cup, still warm from your touch,
And I think to myself, I don't need much.

A brew by the beach, our quiet routine,
The scent of salt air and caffeine in between.
Your laughter spills out like the tide at my feet,
Soft as the rhythm where sun and sea meet.

Coffee on the coast, hearts in repose,
The world still asleep while our story unfolds.
The foam kisses shore just like you kiss my skin,
And the day feels brand new all over again.

You trace hearts in sand with your worn fingertips,
While I taste forever on your sun-sweetened lips.
The ocean hums softly, a song just for two,
A melody rising with each glance of you.

Coffee on the shoreline, calm and complete,
No need for a map when the moment's this sweet.
We talk about dreams we've yet to explore,
And leave footprints that fade where love touched the shore.

When life pulls us back to the noise and the grind,
I'll carry this sunrise etched in my mind.
For peace has a flavor the city can't teach,
It's the taste of our coffee, our brews by the beach.



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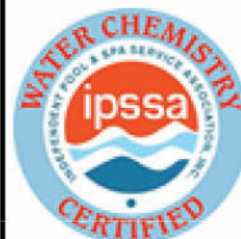
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10 year-old Shepherd Cuva fought this tarpon for over ten minutes along the King Ranch Shoreline on cut mullet before landing and releasing it. He was with Captain - Trey (Salty Dawg Guide Service). Also pictured Britney and Kensington Cuva, 13.



Plein Air painting in Port Aransas



Sandball photos by Kenny Fain

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15305 Cartagena Ct Great waterfront lot located on NPI! Around the corner from multiple boat ramps, restaurants and the beach. Bonus waterfront view from front of property also! **\$289,000** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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15402 Dyna New design by Steve's Homes 4/3/2 plus study on a large corner lot with room for a pool for a pool. **\$585,000** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for a preview!



13941 Flintlock New by Steves's Homes 4/3/2 with inground pool, open floor plan, and ready for move in! **\$610,000** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for a preview!



2317 Nautical Wind Dr. Very nice Southside location, one owner home with open floor plan offering 1456 sqft of living space. 3bed/2bth/2 car garage with large fully fenced in yard **\$269,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



14904 Village Beach Dr. Village by the Beach 1BR/1BTH selling fully furnished, turnkey, and ready to rent or use. Open concept with a charming coastal vibe. Heated pool. 5min walk to the beach. **\$279,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



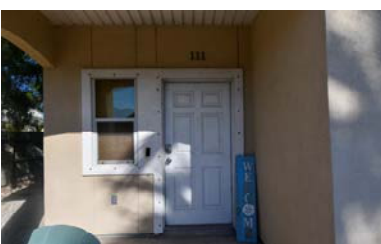
15306 Yardarm Ct 3/2/2 @ 1,486 sq ft. Beautiful waterfront home with east facing backyard for great afternoon shade. Covered boat lift. **\$519,995** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



14428 Compass St. Unit # 204 1BR/1BTH waterfront condo at the popular Mystic Harbor. Selling fully furnished and is equipped with all new hurricane rated windows/doors. First come first serve boat slip access **\$189,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



15642 Cruiser Units A & B Calling all investors! Multi-family duplex 3 bedroom, 2 bath, units each, with a 2 car garage. **\$682,500** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for details or to preview!



14861 SPID #111 Village by the Greens is a centrally located island townhouse with an open floor plan, split bedrooms, quartz countertops, and an EV charger in garage! Can be used as a perfect vacation rental! **\$189,000** **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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Island Outdoors



On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Loyal readers, we really have hit the sweet spot here on the Island. The weather couldn't be better, as the temperatures are less than thermonuclear, we're hitting the dew point on most evenings, and the beaches and laguna are gorgeous. The water temperature is still above needing a wetsuit, and the fish are hungry. If I could just pick the lock on the shackles chaining me to my desk, that would be great, but I suppose that's a good problem. The kids were living their best lives jumping off the pier at the cabin the other day, and I had to get into the act as well.

Chasing pompano

Mardi popped out the other day north of Fish Pass and got into a couple of pompano. These are the best eating fish on the coast (besides flounder, but that's up for discussion). If you aren't chasing these delectable fish, I highly encourage it. Mostly, it takes a long rod with a big weight to get out past the second bar. Being vertically challenged, it takes a pretty good effort for me to get out that far, but I give it a hero shot every time. Shrimp and fishbites are the preferred offering, and it is getting to that time of year to hit the beach. Or you might want to hit the ranch, as this is the last weekend of the split for dove season which ends Sunday and doesn't start again until December 12th. This is also one of the last good weekends for flounder gigging, as that ends next weekend until somewhere around mid December. Time to get outside and get while the getting is good.

The road to Port Aransas

I'm remiss in my getting the news out about the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meetings that are occurring this week. Actually, one was this past Tuesday, and one is today (Thursday, October 23rd) from 4-7pm at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center on McArdle. I saw the presentation from Robert MacDonald a couple of weeks ago, and it was quite enthralling, as far as traffic patterns are concerned. Ha! But the planning that is going on encompasses a lot of projects that affect the Island, including improvements to SH 361 to Port Aransas and the Second Causeway (also known as the Ted Mandel Causeway). They will also be taking public comment on the Plan 2050 online.



The next generation of Cabin Crew.



Jay shows the kiddos how to properly deck dive.

Sharkathon

This weekend is of course Sharkathon, and I'm sure you're already seeing the shark racks and heavy fishing equipment invade the Island. This perennial event is entering its 21st year (and I can't believe I'm saying that). This catch-photo-release primarily shark fishing tournament was started years ago by a bunch of bright-eyed lads who thought it would be a good idea to start a fishing tournament. I saw Curtis the other day in the Lowes parking lot, and he looked like he'd been run over by a car. He reminded me that although it's a labor of love, that it takes a small army to put the event on.

Sharkathon was born from an idea from our late friend and mentor, Capt Billy Sandifer. He watched a previous shark fishing tournament descend on the Padre Island National Seashore every year, and it was a kill tournament. The last time I saw that event, there was a dead lemon shark ratchet strapped on the roof of a suburban, just baking in the sun. I'm glad they are gone now, and this shark fishing event is in co-operation with the Harte Research Institute, and the tagging efforts are nothing less than phenomenal. I'll have more with the follow up next week, and hopefully I'll have a great "tail" of one of us in Team Mexico winning something.

Skatepark!

The skatepark at Billish cleared the last hurdle the other day at city council, and now it just needs to make it into the Capitol Improvement Plan (CIP) that way engineering can get ahold of it and move it down the road. I always say you have to give kudos where kudos are due, and there's a lot of people that have helped that project get where it's at. Now it's up to Jeff Edmonds at city engineering, but the great thing is that he has the experience of the skate park at West Guth, so we're in good hands.

Well folks, I gotta hit it. Our buddy Art is finally coming home this week after a long hospital stay, so that's good news. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Spirit Birds



These two Islanders Matched up to limit out on trout and battle some big a lot redfish on soft plastics and get their FALL FISHING TURNED ON! Farah

The last two weeks have seen our migrating winter guests return to their winter home, the Osprey. These skillful fish eagles spend their winter here enjoying the plentiful supply of fish in shallow water, and warmer temperatures. Over the many years I have seen sometimes the same birds year after year return and favor the same locations and roosts. I talk to them when we pass in the boat, mimicking their calls and screams. They usually don't fly off if I'm talking to them, just raise their tail and poop most every time. They look me right in the eye and seem to recognize me after a while. Over time I have begun to believe that these birds have the spirits of my fallen friends and loved ones. Sometimes I will see a very old and distinguished osprey just about the time my mind rolls back to memories or my Dad, or Wise Ol men I've long ago lost. To return to look over the shoulders of the ones you loved and left behind. When my heart and soul is hurting I sometimes find guidance in believing this. So while you're out walking your dog, fishing, or even just driving home over the JFK, wave and say HI in a high pitch voice to the Fish Eagles, your mind may wonder to what advice the spirit of your lost friends or family might tell you. Fishing has been very good and with the return of the Spirit Birds Fall has arrived here on the Island.

Best fishing times

The temperatures may still get into the 90's but things have cooled off considerably. The masses of bait have migrated out of the bays and into the surf giving less opportunity for predators to explode on food sources at any time. This makes a little bit of pressure to attack targets when they see them! Winter is

coming and they need to bulk up to survive. Look for the best fishing times to be on the charts just before and after the peaks of major feeding times that are posted online and on apps. These time periods are most often correct to the minute. We have been using 1/4oz jig heads and soft plastics while drifting the transition zones in depth between 3-5' of water. This is where the thick grass meets the open water and shows a varied and marbled bottom. Pin perch are thick in the grass flats, and shrimp and Shad are out deep in the open water. That transition area is where the predators lurk when the dinner bell rings.

Drift fishing

Drift fishing this time of year is absolutely perfect! Find a change in the bottom and drift over it using soft plastics or live bait under popping corks. By drift fishing we cover a lot of water when fish are scattered. Anchoring up can be great when large schools of fish are gathered close to each other but most of the time this time of year it's still warm and fish are not crowded in tight.

Redfish run

The redfish run has started to really fade, but in the next few weeks we should have some strong north winds come down. This brings those really giant bull redfish up close to the beach, in casting range! Live or cut mullet in the surf during rough and stormy conditions have always been the best! But so is any time you can kick the shoes off and stand on the sand. Don't spend your days trapped inside or under the thumb of negative energy. It's your life, and it's way too short to waist it on anything but love, family, friendship, AND FISHING! Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING! [361-442-8145](tel:361-442-8145)

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Brenda Pack with her first nice SPECK of the day this week! We fished the large rock piles in the mouth of Baffin Bay this morning. Farah

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Medical Minute

By Dr. Mario Martinez

America is Getting Skinny!



I am reading a book called “Funny Money”. The book is about the scamming on the part of some oil and gas executives in the 1970’s and the 1980’s. The people discussed in the book borrowed many millions of dollars from banks and never did what they were supposed to do with the money. Then they borrowed more money to cover the interest payments of the loans that they had taken out earlier. When the bubble finally burst and some of the banks involved were forced to close, one bank director went home and told his family, “I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is we don’t have to worry about estate planning anymore!”

Recent statistics have shown a decrease in the prevalence of obesity in adults in the United States between August of 2021 and August of 2023! This is amazing given the fact that the prevalence of obesity in the US has steadily increased since 1999. There were reports of very mild and short lived decreases in obesity in 2007 and in 2012. Enthusiasts of the recent data are making a big deal about it. You may have heard about it on the radio or while watching the news. Finally, we Americans have realized the dangerous path of excessive carbohydrates and sugars, and we are returning to our former slender glory! That’s the way it sounds like on the news anyway. The glutton has finally reached its filling point and has stepped away from the buffet table, and the fat lady has finally sang! While I certainly hope that this is true, I am a bit skeptical.

Ozempic

There have been some extremely important new medications that have been developed that have helped many thousands of people lose weight. Ozempic was approved for sale by the FDA December 5, 2017. Its indication is for type 2 diabetes. It is called a glucagon-like peptide-1 or GLP-1 agonist. The same molecule was approved for use in the US in 2021 but for weight loss under the name Wegovy. These products are manufactured by Novo Nordisk. The short version of what these medications do is they send a chemical message to the brain, tricking the brain in to believing that you are full. They also slow down the emptying of the stomach. People that inject themselves once weekly with these medications feel like they are full all the time.

Mounjaro was approved for use in the US in May of 2022. Its indication is also for type 2 diabetes. Shortly thereafter Zepbound was approved for weight loss. They are manufactured by the pharmaceutical company Lilly. These once-weekly injectable medications are also GLP-1 agonists but they also have another ingredient called insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP). The GLP-1, like Ozempic, sends a chemical message to the brain that makes you believe that you are full and slows down the emptying of the stomach. The GIP molecule decreases insulin resistance and suppresses the release of glucagon.

How it works

The pancreas does a lot of things. It produces and secretes insulin. Insulin is necessary for glucose to enter most of our cells. We have some cells in our bodies that do not require insulin to enter the cell but most of our cells do. Glucagon is the antagonist of insulin. When the blood glucose level is too low, glucagon is released. We store chains of glucose in the form of glycogen. Glycogen is stored mostly in the liver. When the body needs more glucose, glucagon cuts up the chains of glucose molecules in the glycogen and releases the glucose into our blood stream. This occurs mostly during a time of fasting. The GIP molecule in Mounjaro and Zepbound down regulates the secretion of glucagon. This keeps the blood glucose level lower. When the blood glucose level is low, the body burns fat to make energy.

It seems pretty obvious that this recent reduction in obesity in adults in the US is directly related to Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, and Zepbound. I have personally tried a couple of them but I did not tolerate them. The slowing of the emptying of the stomach caused me to have terrible acid reflux. However, the vast majority of patients tolerate the medications extremely well. You cannot take Ozempic or Wegovy if you have ever had pancreatitis, medullary thyroid cancer or multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2. The same goes for Mounjaro and Zepbound but the pancreatitis contraindication is not as clear. Insurance companies have been easing up on restrictions for paying for these medications as well. I certainly hope this trend continues because it was a huge problem until recently. Frankly, the coverage for these medications in non-diabetics is still mediocre at best.

Cigarettes and diet

In all fairness, doctors used to prescribe really powerful amphetamine weight loss medications back in the 1970’s and the 1980’s. A lot more people smoked cigarettes back then as well. Cigarette smoking causes people to burn more calories to breath. They also suppress the appetite. Both of these were important factors that caused people to be thinner back then. Bariatric surgeries have made remarkable advancements lately also. This is the good news! I am optimistic about the recent data regarding the prevalence of obesity in our society but I have my reservations. I still see many young people eating the same bad food that caused them to become obese in the first place but they eat it fewer times a day while on these medications. To me this means that the day they get off of these new and exciting medications, their diets will not have really changed. Without a change in their diets as soon as these medications are not available, they will go right back to gaining their weight back.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

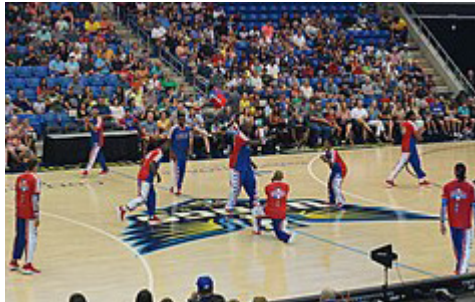


By Dotson Lewis

The Harlem Globe Trotters-Part 2

In 1993, former Globetrotters player Manie Jackson purchased the team from the International Broadcasting Corporation, which was on the verge of bankruptcy.

In 1995, Orlando Antigua became the first Hispanic player on the team. He was the first non-black player on the Globetrotters’ roster since Bob Karstens played with the squad in 1942–43.



The Globetrotters’ Magic Circle in 2019

While parts of a modern exhibition game are pre-planned, the games themselves are not fixed. While their opponents do not interfere with the Globetrotters’ hijinks while on defense, they play a serious game when in possession of the ball and about 20 to 30 percent of a game is “real.” This once led to an infamous 99-100 overtime defeat at the hands of the New Jersey Reds on January 5, 1971, much to the distress of the watching crowd, after the Globetrotters lost track of the score and were facing a 12-point deficit with two minutes remaining with their tricks and after the Globetrotters took a one-point lead late, the Reds hit a game-winner with a few seconds remaining and won.

In September 2005, Shamrock Holdings purchased 80% stake in the Globetrotters.

In October 2013, Herschend Family Entertainment announced that it would acquire the Globetrotters from Shamrock Holdings.

In June 2021, the Globetrotters filed a petition to join the National Basketball Association (NBA) as an expansion franchise.

Starting in 2007, the Globetrotters have conducted an annual “draft” a few days before the NBA draft, in which they select players they feel fit the mold of a Globetrotter. Being drafted by the Globetrotters does not guarantee a spot on the team, although several drafted players have gone on to become Globetrotters:



Dotson’s Note: My thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for facts and photos contained in this report.

Packery Surf Cam and The Gulfstream Condominiums Partner to Bring Live HD Views of North Padre Island’s Coastline

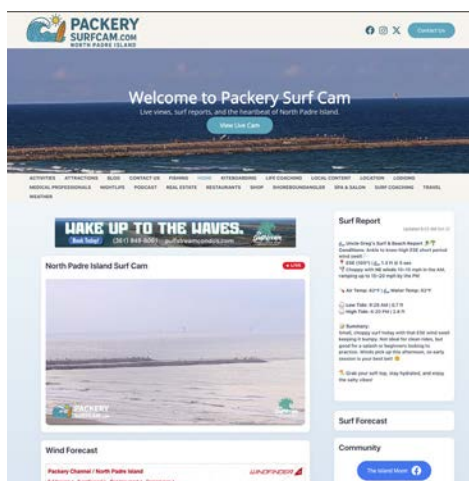
PackerySurfCam.com has partnered with The Gulfstream Condominiums to offer a high-definition live stream of the Packery Channel jetties, showcasing the vibrant surf, kiteboarding, fishing, and ocean conditions that make North Padre Island one of Texas’ most cherished coastal destinations.

This new partnership delivers the most comprehensive and accessible real-time view of the island’s seawall and beaches, giving both locals and visitors a front-row seat to the ever-changing beauty of the Gulf Coast. With crystal-clear HD streaming, beachgoers can now check surf and weather conditions before heading out — no more guessing what the waves look like.

In addition to the live feed, PackerySurfCam.com offers daily surf and ocean condition reports, as well as accurate weather forecasting tools to help locals and tourists plan their perfect beach day. The site also highlights local businesses, attractions, and activities, promoting the vibrant culture and coastal lifestyle of the island to a global

audience.

Packery Surf Cam was founded by entrepreneur, island resident, and long-time surfer Greg Mills. Inspired by his deep connection to the ocean and the North Padre Island community, Mills created the platform to provide locals and visitors with real-time access to surf, weather, and ocean conditions.



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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- 1. Erich Kastner's boy detective
- 5. "___ for Life"
- 9. Slapped the cuffs on
- 14. Discourteous
- 15. Fortuneteller's beginning
- 16. Make joyful
- 17. Capri or Wight
- 18. Way to a man's heart?
- 19. More than persuasion
- 20. Nixon delivery of 1952
- 23. Use an ax
- 24. Jug part
- 25. Al Capone's gang
- 28. Pomeranian barks
- 31. Sale enticement
- 36. Longfellow's bell town
- 38. Fiddler's place?
- 40. Chalet overhangs
- 41. Moving form
- 44. "Siddhartha" author
- 45. "St. Elmo's ___"
- 46. Art Deco illustrator
- 47. Welles and Bean
- 49. Javelin paths
- 51. Job-application datum (Abbr.)
- 52. And so on, for short
- 54. ___ Cuarto, Argentina
- 56. Tongue-lashing by the lady of the house
- 64. Hawaiian island
- 65. Sticky stuff
- 66. 1982 Disney sci-fi film
- 67. Storage spot
- 68. Start to freeze?
- 69. "Great Caesar's ghost!"
- 70. Merchandise
- 71. Take five
- 72. World Series champs of 1975-1976

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
36			37		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
64						65				66		
67						68				69		
70						71				72		

Down

- 1. Guitarist Clapton
- 2. Iditarod shout
- 3. Like someone taking five
- 4. Bloodsucker
- 5. Fireball
- 6. ___-friendly
- 7. Cinco follower
- 8. On pins and needles
- 9. Acted as arbiter
- 10. Skin-cream additive
- 11. Drug agt.
- 12. Cast wearer's frustration
- 13. Word in the society pages
- 21. "Defense of Fort M'Henry" author
- 22. 72, at Augusta
- 25. Like a John Wayne character
- 26. Catchall category
- 27. Alloy of copper and zinc
- 29. Magician's word
- 30. Director Coppola
- 32. Expose
- 33. Alleges as fact
- 34. Items often passed
- 35. Birthplace of Big Bertha
- 37. Start of many words?
- 39. Klinger portrayer on "M*A*S*H"
- 42. Science of heredity
- 43. Dilapidated
- 48. Grand Central, e.g. (Abbr.)
- 50. Exactly as written
- 53. Groucho Marx fixture
- 55. Aquatic critter
- 56. Roman statesman called "the Censor"
- 57. Biblical preposition
- 58. Legal invasion
- 59. "And then there were ___"
- 60. A whole bunch
- 61. Cajole
- 62. Type of show
- 63. Brett Favre targets
- 64. Fall behind

Fifteen Years Ago in the Island Moon



Port A Pig Party 2010



Taste of The Island was held at the Padre Isles Country Club.



Port A Centennial State Historical Marker Declaration



Port A had their Centennial Parade

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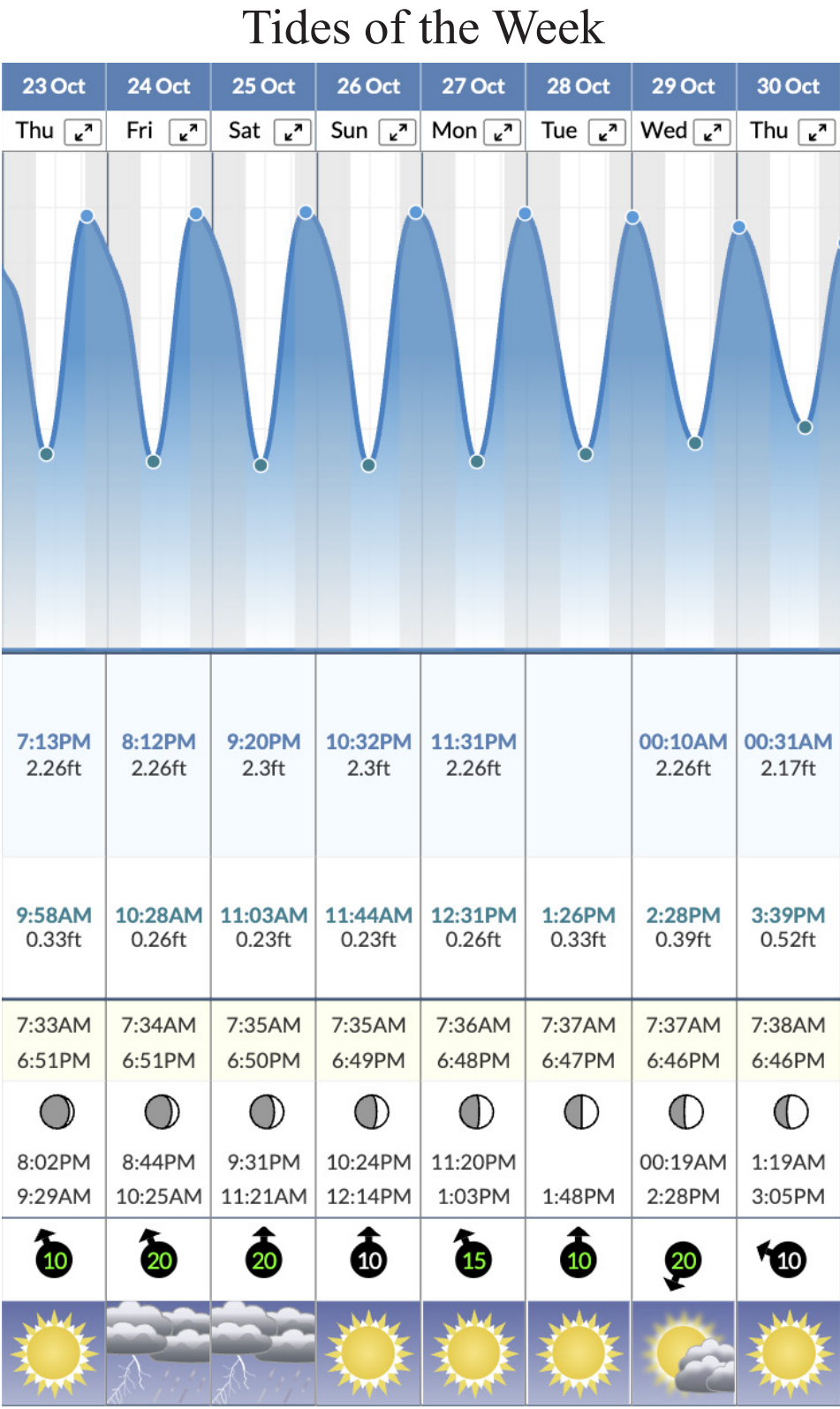
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Gene’s Corner



By Gene Saegert

Looking Back To My Youth

It’s never too hot to fish

Back in the days of my youth, (when according to my sons fishing was done with sharpened sticks) I used to live for the hot weather of summer. I was all about being out in the heat, no fancy sunglasses, that is Ray Ban, etc. no cap, no tee shirt, in fact , as little clothing as possible. I scarcely noticed the heat back in those days, especially when engaging in my favorite sport, fishing. Aside from the fun, we would get and added bonus, what was called in those days “a healthy tan.”

If you were fishing and it actually got too hot to fish, which seldom happened, you could find a shady spot, and sit in the shade with a cold lemonade or iced tea. If it really got hot we would go inside and crank up the old Emerson three speed oscillating fan and we liked it! Only the well-to-do had air conditioning in those days. I can remember going to church and the hymnal racks always had cardboard fans with advertisements for funeral homes on them. The phrase “We will find the perfect resting place for your loved ones” was quite a sobering thought even at that young age.

Well, the heat does seem to get to me now, I don’t know if it is because now I know

I should wear special long sleeve shirts, long pants, a big hat and hundred dollar sunglasses, not to mention the sun tan oil. Oops sorry my age is showing, now it is called sun block. Back then there were only one or two choices of sun tan oil, therefore no time was wasted trying to figure out the SPF or whatever. The sunscreen I have now says: Oil free, fragrance free, hypoallergenic, wont clog pores, broad spectrum, UVA/UVB protection. The disclaimers on the back are just down right disturbing, if by chance you take the 15 minutes needed to read them. One warning did catch my eye however and I quote “For external use only”....now if you are considering drinking the stuff, it is too late, you have been out in the sun too long already. The clincher on the product I have, actually says this also, “The pure and simple Sun Protection.” ??? Anyway, now at my age the hot sun makes me age faster than a soap opera kid back from summer camp! Oh well, I guess I will just have to deal with it and do my best to age gracefully, although my family says that window of opportunity may have closed long ago. We shall see.

Thought for the day. How did the guy that made the first clock know what time it was?

Island Police Blotter

September 1-October 20

- 300 blk. Mirror Ct. Sept. 2 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 14300 blk. Goldfish St. Sept. 3 Unauthorized use of golf cart or other ORV
- 14800 block Windward Dr. Sept. 3 Burglary of a Habitation
- 9800 blk. SPID Sept 3 Theft \$100-\$750
- 14700 blk. Dasmarinas Dr. Sept. 5 Theft of Vehicle Parts
- 16100 blk. Poinciana St. Sept. 6 Terroristic Threat
- 14300 blk. Aloha St. Sept. 6 Theft \$2500-\$30,000
- 15400 blk. Salt Cay Ct. Sept. 7 Theft \$2500-\$30,000
- 15400 blk. SPID Sept. 11 Harassment of a Public Servant
- 11300 blk. Gulf Beach Sept. 11 Theft from a Vehicle
- 14800 blk. Granada Dr. Sept. 12 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 14900 blk. Village Beach Dr. Sept. 13 Theft \$100-\$750
- 14600 blk. SPID Sept. 13 Assault with Serious Injury
- 14300 blk. SPID Sept. 13 Assault Bodily Injury Family Choking
- 10300 blk. SPID Sept. 18 Assault with Weapon
- 13300 blk. SPID Sept. 18 Assault by Contact
- 14300 blk. SPID Sept. 20 Assault with Injury
- 11500 blk. Gulf Beach Rd. Sept. 21 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15200 blk. Windward Dr. Sept. 21 Robbery
- 14900 blk. Packery View Loop Sept. 22 Assault with Injury
- 15200 blk. SPID Sept. 26 Shoplifting
- 15200 blk. Windward Dr. Sept. 28 Theft from a Vehicle \$750-\$2500
- 14300 blk. Indigo St. Sept. 30 Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle
- 14500 blk. Compass Oct. 2 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15200 blk. Windward Dr. Cot. 4 Assault with Injury
- 14900 blk. Gulf Beach Oct. 6 Assault with Injury
- 10500 blk. SPID Dr. Oct. 6 Theft under \$100
- 14000 blk. SPID Oct. 7 Burglary of a Habitation
- 10300 blk. SPID Oct. 8 Theft \$100-\$750
- 15200 blk. Main Royal Dr. Oct. 10 Assault with Injury
- 14800 blk. Windward Dr. Oct. 12 Assault with Injury
- 14800 blk. Windward Dr. Oct. 12 Terroristic Threat
- 15700 blk. Escapade St. Oct. 12 Assault with Injury
- 15100 blk. Kikomo Private Dr. Oct. 13 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 14500 blk. Compass St. Oct. 15 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 9300 blk. State Highway 361 Oct. 15 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 14000 blk. SPID Oct. 17 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 10600 blk. SPID Oct. 17 Burglary of a Building
- 14900 blk. Canadian Mist. Dr. Oct. 18 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15300 blk. SPID Oct. 18 Assault by Contact
- 100 blk. W. Palm Beach Rd. Sept. 29 Burglary of a Building
- 9300 blk. S.H. 361 Oct. 15 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 6300 blk. S.H. 361 Oct. 18 Assault



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Quail Surveys Raise Expectations for another Quality Hunting Season



Quail hunting season kicks off on Nov. 1 in Texas, and the annual Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) roadside survey revealed some encouraging population numbers heading into opening day. Good habitat conditions along with timely rainfall helped bobwhite and scaled quail production this last spring and summer.

“Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists covered over 3,300 road miles in early August during our annual roadside quail surveys,” said Patrick Schutz, TPWD Upland Game Bird Program Leader. “Overall, we are encouraged by the numbers in this year’s surveys and anticipate a good season for hunters especially in the Rolling Plains, South Texas and Trans Pecos regions where populations have traditionally been the strongest.”

Bobwhite quail benefitted from improved habitat for chicks thanks to above average rainfall throughout most of their range. Bobwhite populations in the Rolling Plains appear to be similar to last year but reports in many areas in this ecoregion show above average bobwhite numbers.

South Texas should provide good opportunities for hunters looking to harvest birds this fall. The typical number of bobwhites seen per route by biologists was 12.70 compared to 9.13 last year, above the 15-year mean of 9.78.

“South Texas remains a stronghold and bobwhite populations appeared to increase the further south you go within the region,” said Schutz. “This region accounted for over 50 percent of the estimated total bobwhite harvest last season and biologists are encouraged by the bobwhite numbers they’ve observed recently. Public hunting opportunities in this ecoregion can be found at the [Chaparral](#) and [James E. Daughtrey](#) Wildlife Management Areas and we expect these WMAs to provide fair hunting conditions.”

The 2025 scaled quail population survey revealed that population numbers increased across their range. The average number of scaled quail seen by biologists was above the 15-year mean in all ecoregions and reported good carryover from the previous year. Birds were observed on more than 70 percent of the surveys in the Trans Pecos ecoregion and on more than 50 percent of the routes in the Edwards Plateau ecoregion.



Male and female Bob White Quail

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

On the local front...



Lazy Lester says 50° ain't cold.

In a perfect world we would be breaking out our long sleeves and my only two pair of long britches. Nope, not yet. These “cold fronts” the weather people insist have blown in have only taken them temps to the low 90's. What's predictable in the rest of the country never seems to apply to us. I remember bitching about the cold weather in San Antonio to **Lazy Lester** one winter, he just laughed and said, “What you mean. It's only 50°?” and just shook his head at me. All things are relative. Well dang it, I'm ready to whine about some treacherous 50° weather, aren't you? And, I'm ready for our *Winter Texan* families to get down here. For me, it's not winter until the dance floor at *Bernie's* is packed with old farts from Minnesota dancing like they had good sense. Come on **PA Rockers**.

Texas Headhunters debriefing...



Ian Moore, Johnny Moeller and Jesse Dayton are the Texas Headhunters.

We've had a couple of really GREAT weekends for live music lately. Two weeks ago we had a three band lineup at *Shorty's* for their annual *Pig Party* and the headliner, **Nik Parr** and the **Selfless Lovers** absolutely blew us away. Plus **Left Right Left** and **Darren McCall** weren't too shabby either. But come last weekend it was all about the *Sip Yard*. Enter the **Texas Headhunters** with three renowned Austin guitar gods **Jesse Dayton**, **Johnny Moeller** and **Ian Moore**. Their show at the *Sip Yard* last Friday might possibly take the cake of at least *one* of the hottest acts on the national circuit today. I've seen a lion's share of big, impressive acts through the years ie: the **Rolling Stones** at the *Alamodome*, **Bruce Springsteen** at the *Super Drum*, **Ray Charles** at the *Armadillo*, **James Brown** at *Club Foot* and **Miles Davis** at *Ronnie Scott's* in London, etc, etc. But these three cats from Texas could go toe to toe with anybody. What was deemed a “collaboration” might best be described as a *musical morph of three like minded killing machines*. I've decided this amazing band is the exact definition of the term “super group”... key word super. This show at the *Sip Yard* was nothing short of rock perfection with three veteran lead players ripping it up at breakneck speed in exact and precise unison. Nobody missed a lick all night... not one. And all of the songs they played were originals. It's a travesty this show wasn't better attended.

Scattered shots...



Groove Chilli will play Shorty's on Saturday

I think I've sufficiently covered the **Headhunters** gig last Friday, but I did manage to catch a few other shows. The *Texas Jazz Fest* was going on in town and the annual *Shrimporee* was jumping in AP but we still had some good shows here on our little sandbar. *Shorty's* had the real blues deal **Reno Perez and the Groove Getters** on Friday and you all know how I adore the blues. Also our coon ass buddies, **Boudreaux and Pousson** played to a pretty slim crowd at *Bron's* last Friday. I did swing by *Shorty's* a few times throughout the night to listen to the **Bayside Volunteer Jam Band**. They played a lot of soulful covers and had a pretty decent crowd going. Over at *Bron's* the amazing **Chris Boss** came down from San Antonio to play to another skimpy crowd. Chris only has one speed and its fire. Also on Saturday the *Sip Yard* had **Buffaloe and the Heard** on stage. They were competing with the Longhorn football game on their ten foot TV screen. And the game went into overtime and went on and on. I felt bad for the band.

Coming this weekend...



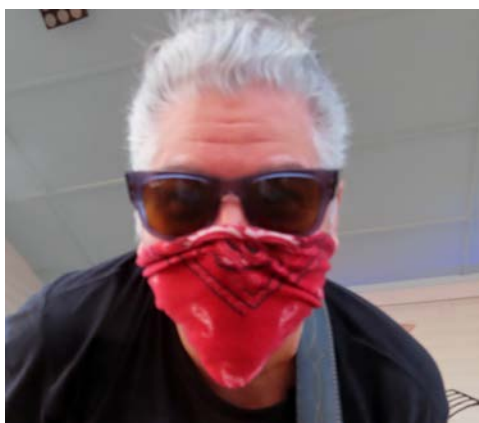
The No Wake Zone will play the Gaff on Friday.

Generally speaking, the live music scene has started its slow decline since *Labor Day* when school started back and our tourism trends lightened. You can easily see this by looking at my LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT schedule. Don't get me wrong, there are still plenty of shows to see out there locally, but historically the venue's budgets tend to head south this time of year. Starting this Thursday *Shorty's* will start a new/old residency with the **All Stars** consisting of the rhythm section of **Art Galvan** on bass and **Antone Perez** on drums. They'll have a different guitar player every week and will begin the streak with **Ray Summy**. I really appreciate the coalition of the *Sip Yard* and our local *Chamber of Commerce* in October with their *Beachtober Beats* series. On Friday the 24th the *Sip Yard* will have another installment with the incredible **Uncle Lucius** band. I've seen these guys many times at the old *Back Porch* and brother are we in for a treat. Singer **Kevin Galloway** is a monster who takes no prisoners. And as if that isn't enough, another *must see* band, **Sour Bridges**, will open the show. You know where I'll be. Coming on Saturday the 25th we have the BELT SANDER RACES at the *Gaff* with **Coach Jim Dugan**, **John Cortez** will be back home at *Shorty's* and the **No Wake Zone** married duo will play the *Gaff*. Plus **Briscoe** will play the *Sip Yard*, blues rocker **Ruben V** will play the last show of the season at *Bron's* and *Shorty's* will have some grunge with **Groove Chili**. And don't forget our good buddy from up Medina way, **Boone Holding**, will treat us to his heartfelt originals at *Bron's*. And finally, the annual *Wooden Boat Show* will be going on all weekend at *Roberts Point Park* with a *Classic Car Show* on Saturday and the *Farmer's Market* on Sunday. And you dare not miss *Red's Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl* is coming November 2nd. Be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Antone Perez and Art Galvan will play Shorty's with a different guitarist every Thursday



Ruben V will finish off the season at Bron's on Saturday.



Uncle Lucius will play the Sip Yard on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

October 23

All Stars @ Shortys
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Michael Anthony Perez @ Pep's
David Martinez @ Rockits
Art Barrera @ Pier 99
Third Coast Duo @ Executive Surf Club

Friday.

October 24

WOODEN BOAT FEST @ PA
Uncle Lucius, Sour Bridges @ Sip Yard
Palacios @ Treasure Island
John Cortez @ Shorty's
Boone Holding @ Bron's
No Wake Zone @ Gaff
George Ensle @ Harbor Room RP
Roger Creager @ Brewster Downtown
Alley Catz Duo @ Brewster South
Michael Burts @ Brewster Island
Braxton Keith @ Concrete Street
Young Klassics @ Rockit's
Jon Car @ Pelican Lounge
Lisa Sullivan @ The Pearl
George Ensle @ Harbor Listening Room RP
David Martinez @ Gallery 41
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Bay Area Brew RP
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club

Saturday.

October 25

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
WOODEN BOAT FEST @ PA
CLASSIC CAR SHOW @ JC Barr Pavilion
SAND PUMPKIN PATCH @ Port A Beach
Briscoe @ Sip Yard
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Ruben V @ Bron's
Groove Chili @



BOONE HOLDING

OCT 24

RUBEN V

OCT 25

LAST SHOWS OF THE SEASON

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SOUR BRIDGES
BRISCOE
SHINYRIBS
DALLAS MOORE
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OCT 24
OCT 24
OCT 25
OCT 31
NOV 1
NOV 7



OPEN JAM EVERY WED WITH BRAD
BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT

NO WAKE ZONE
JIM DUGAN
BRAD ETHRIDGE
JIM BUSH
BOO & POO

OCT 24
OCT 25
OCT 26
OCT 30
OCT 31

SHORTY'S

JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12

JOHN CORTEZ
GROOVE CHILI
TODD DORN
LEFT RIGHT LEFT
DARREN MCGILL

OCT 24
OCT 25
OCT 31
NOV 1
NOV 7

Shorty's

TBA @ Treasure Island
Ty Myers @ Concrete Street
Trisum @ Brewster Island
Michael Burts @ Brewster South
The Max @ Rockit's
Lisa Sullivan @ Pier 99
Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge
Cruise Control @ Executive Surf Club

Sunday.

October 26

WOODEN BOAT FEST @ Roberts Point Park
FARMERS MARKET @ Roberts Point Park
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
David Martinez @ Executive Surf Club
Michael Burts @ Anchor Beach Bar

Monday.

October 27

Melissa Ann @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday.

October 28

Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Carl Hayes Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Rich Lockhart @ Packery Bar
Los Locals @ Palm Republic
Michael Burts @ Panjos RP
Navarro & the Creatures @ Executive Surf Club

Wednesday.

October 29

Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge
The Groove @ VFW
David Martinez @ La Palmera Mall

Thursday.

October 30

All Stars @ Shortys
Jim Bush @ Gaff
Jerry Ward @ Pelican

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