

Issue 1125

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The

Island Moon

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November 6, 2025

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Down the hatch By Roy Frette

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By Dale Rankin

From OTB they came. Ghouls and goblins and superheroes of all stripes in search of sweets...free sweets. By all accounts the number of trick or treaters reached record numbers this week as a count by at least one candygiver was 1963 bag holders. That's a lot of sugar. While it is unconfirmed talk *Around The Island* is that more than a few of the masked invaders sported mustaches as their trips around the sun numbered more than required to reach puberty.

Post office

We feature a story this week by Dotson Lewis about his friend Bob Batterson who passed away at the age of 102 and is now having a post office named after him. Bob was a friend of the *Moon* and we are glad he is being remembered for his service in World War II. Now, it raises the question of what to name the post office on The Island...no wait...we don't have a post office on The Island. It comes to mind that there is a congressional race going on now and maybe that is something one of the thirteen candidates in the race might put on their agenda.

Island cameras

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It's been a good month for surfers and drivers *Around The Island* as two new cameras have taken the guesswork out of wave action and traffic jams on the JFK Bridge. Longtime Islander Frank Dela

Around cont. on A3

241 Acres of prime Island real estate put on the market

Two sites up for sale by the same owner at undisclosed price

By Dale Rankin

Two tracts of prime vacant land on Padre Island totaling 241.18 acres have been put on the market by their common owner at an undisclosed price.

The two tracts consist of a 10.33 acre tract at the southwest corner of Whitecap Blvd. and South Padre Island Drive, and second larger tract of 230.85 acres located west of the intersection of Aquarius Street and Commodores Drive and bordered on the west by the Laguna

Property cont. on page A6



The Property at Whitecap and PR22

Land under JFK Bridge may be headed for 2026 bond package



It is all water under the bridge after every rain under the causeway

By Dale Rankin

The Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) this week listed priorities for an anticipated bond package to go before voters in November 2026.

At the top of the list, still awaiting a formal vote, is the development of the land under the

Bridge cont. on page A3

Senior Moments

Post Office to Be Renamed in Honor of WWII Veteran Bob Batterson



By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: President Joe Biden, as well as Texas Congressman Michael Cloud, signed legislation

to name the downtown U.S. Post Office on Tancahua in memory of



Bob Batterson

Capt. Batterson, both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate approved that bill. The ceremony will take place at 11 am, November 10th. Congressman Cloud also released the following statement for the post office renaming ceremony:

Senior cont. on page B2

A little Island history

Bait Stands on the JFK Causeway

When the garbage truck ran over the septic tank...

Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell moved to Flour Bluff in 1943 where he was a commercial fisherman until his retirement. He lives there today.

By Bobbie Kimbrell

Soon after the JFK Causeway was completed in about 1950 there were only two bait stands on the causeway. One was the Red Dot Bait Stand south of the3 Intra-coastal Canal Bridge and the other one was Rushes Bait Stand on the

History cont. on A4



Swing bridge. Photo from the National Park Service

By the numbers

Homeowners get a tax break!

\$200,000 total reduction for homeowners over 65 for school taxes

All seventeen Constitutional Amendments on the November ballot were passed by Texas voters this week. Two are of particular interest to homeowners.

Proposition 13 increases the school tax exemption for homeowners from the current \$100,000 reduction in appraised value to \$140,000. Accompanying legislation puts the state on the hook for the revenue school districts lose.

Proposition 11 allows homeowners over 65 years of age to take an additional \$60,000 off of appraised value for school property taxes, an increased reduction over

Tax Break cont. on page A3

La Posada Schedule

The La Posada Lighted Boat Parades and the events leading up to them now one month away. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday December 3 Whitecap NPI Tree Lighting

Thursday December 4 Kick-Off Party at Hardknocks Sports Grill. Doors open at 6:30pm Music by DLB DJ Entertainment

The lighted Boat Parades

Friday December 12 7:00 pm televised by KRIS 6 at Doc's Waterline. Register your boat to participate at Laposadadfoundation.org

Saturday December 13 Parade begins at 6:00 at Caravel Boat Ramp



Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl

Photos by Ronnie Narmour



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Letters to the Editor



Island Blast Fireworks 4 July 2026

10th annual Island Blast needs your help. Last year the Blast costs \$ 29,500 funded completely by donations from individuals & businesses. The Blast gets no public/tax money from any government & has no paid employes. Last year the fireworks company charged \$ 27,000. An additional \$ 1,500 is needed each year for permits, licenses, and insurances. A signed contract with a 50% down payment (\$ 13,500) is due the 2nd week of January to secure the show on the 4th of July. The Blast has \$ 7,000 in the bank & needs additional \$ 6,500 to meet the down payment. Please donate what you can to allow this Island tradition to continue.

Donations by check made out to Island Blast, Inc can be sent to or brought to the POA office 14015 Fortuna Bay Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. The POA does not sponsor the Blast but is a mail drop. Or donate by credit/debit card at “GoFundMe” scroll to Island Blast. Island Blast is a 501c3 corporation so your donation can be listed on your taxes.

For any questions call Nick 618-889-9160. Every dollar counts!

Coast Guard employees

As the government shutdown continues, many Coast Guard civilian employees are without their paychecks -- leaving these hardworking citizens in dire straits. Unlike their counterpart military aid societies, the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Supporting Civilian Employees Association (CGMA) supports its civilian workforce. Since October 10th, CGMA has processed \$1.9 million in interest-free payroll loans for 698 civilian employees.

How to Help

CGMA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, 100% funded by donations, most of which come from Coast Guard members themselves. A government shutdown not only increases demand for aid but also disrupts the contributions that make CGMA's mission possible.

To support the Coast Guard total workforce:
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Tax Break cont. from A1

the current \$10,000 exemption.

Taken together those two ballot items allow homeowners over 65 years of age to reduce the appraised value on their homes for school tax by a total of \$200,000. The state will now help pay for revenue school districts lose which could cost the state more than \$1.2 billion in general revenue for the next two fiscal years and upwards of \$477 million annually after that, according to a fiscal note from the state's Legislative Budget Board.

The reduction in appraised value will take effect in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Bridge cont. from A1

JFK Bridge which was part of a \$1.8 million bond package in 2018 but remains undeveloped. The path to making improvements in that area was cleared earlier this year with a ruling the by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it does not include jurisdictional wetlands. Only about \$650,000 of the 2018 bond money remains available after a series of ongoing environmental studies drained the coffers.

The City of Corpus Christi holds an agreement with the Texas General Land Office to maintain the area and plans have been in place for more almost two decades to pave the area under the bridge and the parking lot between the bridge and Packery Channel. A portion of those plans were put in place more than a decade ago when the adjacent boat ramps were improved and part of the parking lot was paved, however, funds ran dry before completion of the parking lot and the area under the bridge which remain unpaved and frequently flood.

ISAC members also listed two other projects for the 2026 bond package. The first is the paving of Sand Dollar Street between Verdemar Drive and State Highway 361 which has been platted for more than forty years but never completed. Underground utilities have been in place there for more than a decade and a study done by ISAC members shows that the paving of that street would significantly increase property values in the forty-plus lots that border the currently unpaved street. A third priority is Phase II of Commodores Park which is currently under design.

The final elements of the November 2026 bond package are expected to go before the Corpus Christi City Council for a final vote in August.



Moon Monkeys

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	My Coastal Home

Around cont. from A1

Rosa launched a high definition camera showing traffic coming and going OTB and Greg Mills launched a camera to show the surf on the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. Find the JFK Bridge camera at jfkcausewaycam.com and the surf camera at packerysurfcam.com. So if you are coming OTB to go surfing you are in luck!

La Posada and 4th of July Fireworks

In the Moon Juxtaposition Department this time we feature two events on opposite ends of the calendar but related. As we feature in this issue the La Posada season is just around the corner with the first event at Whitecap NPI on Wednesday December 3 when the second annual Tree Lighting kicks things off followed the next night by the Kick-Off party at Hardknocks Sports Grill. It's almost time to La Posada everybody! But there is also a deadline coming up for the Island Blast 4th of July Fireworks Show as half of the funds for the show are due by the end of 2025 to hold the date with the fireworks shooters. This event is now in its second decade and is paid for entirely by donations. As with many things Around The Island we are on our own folks. The

total cost of the project is in the \$25,000 range so you can do the December math. Help out if you can by sending donations by check made out to Island Blast, Inc. to the POA office 14015 Fortuna Bay Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418 or drop them off there, or donate by credit/debit card at “GoFundMe” scroll to Island Blast. Island Blast is a 501c3 corporation so your donation can be listed on your taxes. For any questions call Nick Colosi at 618-889-9160. When it comes to deck parties these two events are the biggest on our little sandbar. That's all for now, get out there and enjoy the Chamber of Commerce Weather and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



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History cont. from A1

north side. Later on John Bean's Fishing Pier was put in about 200 yards south of the Red Dot Bait Stand, and then a couple of years later three bait stands were put in at the Humble Channel. And then many years later Rawalt's Bait Stand was put in east of Rush's Bait Stand and then eventually the last bait stand was put in east of Rawalt's. Many years later John Bean's Fishing Pier became Snoopy's. John Bean was the grandson of Judge Roy Bean, The Law West of the Pecos and court was held in the Lilly Langtry Bar.

John Bean also had a fleet of damp trucks and got a contract to haul off the asphalt runway of the old Cliff-Maus airport and John used some of the asphalt to make a road from under the causeway to his fishing pier, which helped business. At time John would holster his .44 caliber Colt thumbster and run off fishermen who had parked on his lease to wade out in the Intracoastal Canal to fish.

Live shrimp sold for two cents apiece. The catcher got a penny and the seller got a penny. Dead bait, shrimp sold for about 30 cents a pound. There were no bay type shrimp boats being used to catch shrimp in the Intracoastal Canal at the time. The shrimp were caught using a small 16-foot inboard skiff and with a push net in the shallow water.

At certain times of the year as the shrimp were migrating toward the Gulf you could put a push net down beside your pier that jutted out tin the edge of the canal and catch as much as a half-gallon in just a few minutes and ill up all our your live boxes in about 30 minutes. In the hot summer months the only shrimp caught were caught with a push net. Many years later nearly all of the shrimp were caught with bay shrimp boats and shrimp could be dipped up beside the swing bridge using a long-handled dip net. Mr. Billings, who had a bay type shrimp boat put in for a permit to build a docking pier east of Rawalt's place. The city, by mistake, gave him a bait stand lease instead so Billings built a bait stand instead of a dockage pier. A lot of fishing people camped out under the access to the swing bridge and lot of trout were caught under the lights of the swing bridge. After the swing bridge was replaced with a high bridge it changed the flow of traffic towards Billings Bait Stand and it increased their business.

A lot of people camped out under the new high bridge in trailer houses, RVs and even

mobile homes. The city put in a restroom under the bridge with a septic tank.

I forgot to mention that Fran Graham put in a bait stand on the southwest side of the high bridge and Nellie Wright put in a bait stand on the northwest side of the high bridge in the early years and the Ghokes eventually took over operation of Rush's Bait Stand.

A city garbage truck ran over the septic line of the restroom and made the restroom unusable.

Freddy Edgeman and his associates bought the Red Dot Bait Stand and eventually moved the name to a bait stand on the Humble Channel and the city razed the old bait stand. Most of the shrimpers fared well through the years and sold the shrimp at Billings Bait Stand that would then sell the shrimp to the wholesale market. About half of the customers at the bait stands came from San Antonio and other cities north of Corpus Christi. Most of the bait stands had aluminum and wood skiffs to rent but as the years passed the safety restrictions and so forth caused the bait stands to quit renting them. Most of the bait stands had aluminum and wood skiffs to rent but as the years passed the safety restrictions and so forth caused the bait stands to quit renting them.

The bait stands were very instrumental in the development of Padre Island as Padre Island continues to prosper.

P.S. I forgot to mention that when Nellie Wright was in the Army in a war combat zone his unit got separated from the battalion and were encircled by the enemy, the Germans. Nellie said they had enough fire power and ammo to keep from getting captured but nearly starved to death because they were cut off from their food supply. Nellie said that when they finally got rescued and got food you could actually feel the food going into your stomach.

There have been many adventurous, intriguing, and fascinating stories written about Padre Island, Flour Bluff, and the Laguna Madre starting all the way back to the Indian days. Many different people have made a name for themselves and the land they survived on.

I believe if part of all those stories were put together and made in a book it would become a best seller and as for the people who would read the book they would understand what it took for this area to become what it is today and what it holds for the future.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Abandoned Boat

*It lies abandoned on the shore,
a long neglected old eyesore.
A broken boat beyond repair
and no one knows who left it there.*

A H Shacknofsky

When boats go bad...they go bad in a hurry. We live in a climate where cement rusts. I once knew a guy who claimed he had rust on his dental braces and he wasn't lying. His name was Rusty Mouthbreather. You name it if you leave it out in our environment for a week it's going to corrode. This fact of Island life that has been driven home to me in the past couple of weeks as I have found myself in the position of having to try and get rid of boats and cars that others have left behind to rust.

Some of the boats are in the water taking up slips, some are on trailers parked in the lot, and a car with two flat tires has taken up residency in the parking lot. I have contacted various state and local agencies in an effort to get them removed. I have run license plates and boat registration numbers, contacted as many owners as I can find – at least until they stop answering calls – and yet my rusty friends remain. It reminded me of an old Willie Nelson song, “That Buick just sat there on blocks in the front yard and sunk into the ground until me and Thelma got our third divorce.”

To sail is to dream...

One thing I have learned through bitter experience is that for reasons unknown sailboat owners seem to be the first to disappear in the wind. They put the boat in the slip and pay for the first month then you can't find them after that. There are a plethora of theories as to why this is the case, after all sailboat owners don't have to buy fuel, but then again most do because running the motor is easier than running up the sail. At some point each and every one of us has toyed with the idea of setting sail to parts unknown and never looking back – a few people I have known here on The Island have actually done it. As sailors are fond of saying, “the journey ends when you leave the dock.” Especially if you are leaving your sailboat in someone else's dock as it turns out. My friend Philly Joe left these parts to sail around the world in a kayak with a sail twenty-five years ago and I haven't seen him since.

Let's make a fortune flipping sailboats!

I got into what might be called the sailboat restoration business with Philly Joe after being introduced to him by Moon Mike. Philly Joe was always on the scout for sailboats that could be had on the cheap, or even cheaper and fixed up. He found one in a slip in Port Aransas and we went up to look at it and the fellow was asking \$14,000. Sailboat owners can be dreamers by nature and his asking price at \$14k fell into that category. “I'll give you \$7,000,” Philly Joe said.

“That's less than what I have in it,” the man said.

“That's not my problem,” Philly Joe said.

“It's not an investment, it's a deprecating asset and this one is well-depreciated.”

The man seemed insulted and invited us to leave and as we were walking out I said,

“That fellow seemed kind of insulted Philly Joe, I mean half the asking price?”

“Trust me,” Philly Joe said, “for every guy who turns down seven cash there is a wife telling him to sleep on the couch.”

Sure enough, the next day the fellow called and accepted the \$7000 offer.

“That was yesterday's price,” Philly Joe said. “Today's price is \$3500, and tomorrow's is \$1500, after that you'll have to pay me haul it off.” The man accepted and Philly Joe said, “You have to deliver it on the trailer to my slip.” And that's how I became the owner of my first sailboat. After many months of work with Philly Joe living on the boat instead of his kayak we sold it for \$4000 – what we had in it after the \$3500 purchase price, parts, some new sails and feeding Philly Joe as part of the overhead. It turned out I wasn't in the sailboat business, I was in the Philly Joe temporary housing business on a breakeven basis.

Fast forward twenty five years...

My sideswipe into the boat business was front of mind this week as I stared at two abandoned sailboats, a work barge, and a wrecked car that were dumped on a piece of property I was trying to clear out. The car has two flat tires, the work barge has no identifying numbers, only one of the sail-

boats had registration numbers, the other had been sanded clean. I ran the numbers on the sailboat through the state system and contacted the registered owner who said he sold the boat three years ago to a guy whose name he can't remember and who may be dead.

This was a familiar story as I had gone through the same process with a motor boat tied up in a nearby slip. I traced the owner who told me he sold it seven years ago to a guy who sold it to a guy who may or may not be in prison. I actually found the guy who said “Well, I was going to restore it but you know, life comes at you pretty fast sometimes.”

“Well,” I said. “We all shoal up from time to time but I only have two rules for leaving boats in the slips, the motor has to run and they can't be sitting on the bottom, and from what I can tell you are in violation of both.”

It harkened me back to New Orleans when I was there immediately after Hurricane Katrina and saw the relief on the faces of many a boat owner whose boat was sunk or left high and dry. “It belongs to the insurance company now,” they said through a smile. In those days a boat could be bought directly from the insurance company which as often as not would give it to you if you hauled it off and many people took that deal. Now, I'm told you have to go through a dealer.

I spent several nights traveling around that city with an insurance adjuster from San Antonio inspecting damaged cars. If water got into the dashboard it was totaled; if not it could be repaired but sometimes it was hard to tell and deals were to be had. Just like damaged or abandoned boats it was a slippery business.

An uncertain process...

Cars and boats are different. If a car is abandoned the police department can tag it and after a period of time haul it to the pound where it will eventually be auctioned off. I'm told that on occasion a car owner will show up looking for his vehicle only to find the storage fees are more than the value of the car.

But with boats you have to go through a process through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to title a “boat or outboard motor(s) through the bonded title process for abandoned vessels and outboard motors.

These items will be published six months before a title will be issued under the surety bond titling process, Section 31.0466 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 53, Subchapter F, Section 53.100 of the Texas Administrative Code.” When I looked it up it said to file a claim 1-800-WHY-DOIT or (512) DIV-ORCE and fax documentation proving ownership to (512) NOT-HOME followed by the admonition “Before filing a claim, please note that any individual filing a claim of ownership must be prepared to assume the responsibility and cost to remove and relocate the boat or outboard motor within a reasonable time period.”

I found myself on the wrong end of filing paperwork, waiting six-months, then paying to haul off three boats I never wanted in the first place so I did what you do in the land of Social Media – I posted on Facebook there were vehicles to be had for the filing of paperwork. I had twelve calls in the first hour. One man's trash is another man's treasure, all you got to do is call 1-RUN-AWAY and she's all yours buddy.

At least that's today's price.



Red Dot Pier. Photo courtesy of visitcorpuschristi.com



Dolphins By Steve Coons



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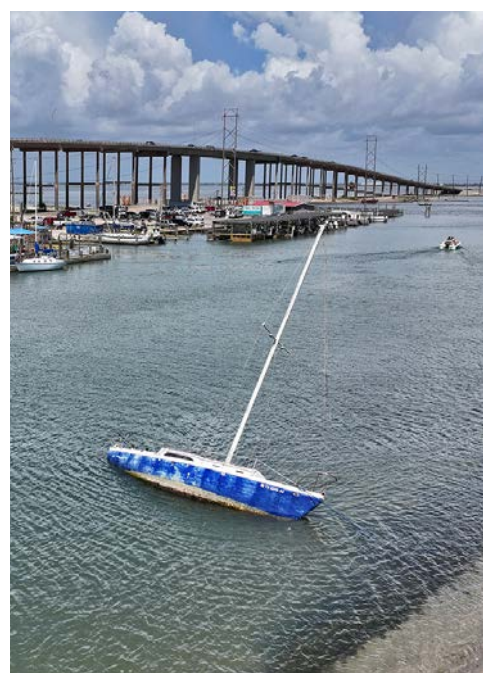
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Abandoned boat in Packery Channel

Nature Notes

Rainbows in nature

By Rebecca Bracken



Painted Bunting by Mike Williams

As the song goes, somewhere over the rainbow...bluebirds fly. Well, bluebirds don't really fly over the rainbow, but there are birds that are rainbow colored. There are also rainbow-colored trees, and many animals that appear to be many colors. So, what is a rainbow, and why are so many things in nature so brightly colored?

A rainbow is actually light that is reflected through the inside of a water droplet. When light enters the droplet, it slows down and bends as it moves from the air to the denser water. The light is then separated into different components, called wavelengths, and when these wavelengths exit, we see a rainbow. Interestingly, how visible a rainbow is depends on the viewer's position. Because it is an optical phenomenon, only occurring when conditions are just right, a rainbow is only visible from a certain direction.

But there are many rainbows in nature that are more permanent. For example, the rainbow eucalyptus, which naturally occurs in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. This amazing tree is a true natural wonder, with vibrant green, blue, red, and orange hues underneath orange-tinted bark. Color aside, the rainbow eucalyptus offers habitat and nourishment for a wide variety of species, from microorganisms feeding on its leaves to birds that nest in its branches. Its roots are so vast that they help stabilize the surrounding soil, which prevents erosion and maintains watershed health. The leaves are traditionally used to treat wounds, and are steeped in teas to treat asthma and coughs. Because of its striking

appearance, you can know find the rainbow eucalyptus in botanical gardens around the world.

One of my favorite Australian birds is truly a rainbow in feather form. The Gouldian Finch, found in northern Australia, are unmistakable because of their vibrant colors. Even though the finch is small in size, somehow hues of bright blue, green, yellow, and purple are squeezed onto its body. While Australia is known for its colorful birds, the Gouldian Finch is really one of the most striking. The finch was listed as endangered, with fewer than 2,500 individuals remaining in the wild. The finch depends on grasses and seeds, which are commonly found in open grassy plains with scattered Eucalyptus trees. It is also a popular pet bird because of its beautiful colors.

There are also many small organisms that manage to exhibit bright colors, including the wattle-cup caterpillar, peacock mantis shrimp, and the peacock spider. The peacock spider is actually a genus of nearly 100 individual species of jumping spiders, predominantly found in Australia. While the name peacock implies many colors are present, it actually gets its name from something else. Peacock spiders are named for the intricate, yet colorful, mating dance and display that the males undertake when looking for a mate. The abdomen of the male spider is covered in light-reflecting, iridescent scales or protrusions in red, orange, white, cream, and blue. The abdomen itself has lateral flaps that can unfold similar to the tail of a peacock.

There are many other examples of dazzling colors in nature, including the Painted Bunting, a bird that is commonly found in Texas. The male bunting, like the Gouldian Finch, has a variety of colors, including a mostly blue head. Blue is considered the rarest color in nature because we only perceive objects to be blue due to the way light reflects off the structure, compared to other colors like green and yellow

which can come from pigments. On your next nature walk, be sure to look at the world around you, and see what colors you can find!

Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Message in a Bottles



Jace Tunnell holding 3 message in bottles found Oct 2025

During this week's Beachcombing survey, I came across not one, not two, but three messages in bottles washed up along the beach. That makes six bottles found in the past month and brings my total to more than 50 messages in bottles discovered over the years of conducting weekly Beachcombing surveys.

The three bottles I found this week were clearly sent by the same person, each clear glass bottle containing what appeared to be a single note tied with a red ribbon and a 2017 penny tucked inside. Once I carefully extracted the letters, I found that each contained two typed pages, front and back, promoting a political agenda. I won't get into what the messages said, but they serve as a good reminder about the proper etiquette of sending a message in a bottle.

While I always advocate for not throwing anything into the ocean, I know many people are drawn to the romantic idea of sending a message that might travel the seas. If you're going to do it, there's a right way and a wrong way.

First, always write your message in pencil. Ink fades quickly when exposed to moisture

or sunlight, but pencil will last for decades. Second, avoid including your phone number or email address — the charm of a message in a bottle is its old-fashioned nature. Instead, include your name and mailing address so someone can write you back. Third, always note the date and location where the bottle was released. That small detail can tell an amazing story about ocean currents and the distance your message traveled. Finally, it's a kind gesture to include a few dollars for postage, making it easier for whoever finds your bottle to send a reply.

Finding a message in a bottle is one of those magical beachcombing moments that reminds us of our connection to others across time and tide. Just remember — if you're going to send one, do it responsibly.

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 harteresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harteresearch), Instagram (@harteresearch) and X (@HarteResearch) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



Message in bottles on Jaces desk at work

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Property cont. from A1

Madre known as the Commodores Landing site. Both properties hold permits with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that allow for development but both lack utilities and infrastructure.

Both tracts were acquired by Axys Capital Credit Fund who purchased the land through a credit buy in 2018 in the wake of the bankruptcy of the Schlitterbahn waterpark. Both tracts are being offered through the San Antonio office of Colliers Texas.

The property along SPID is zoned CR-2 commercial with mixed-use development. Owners of the Aquarius site revealed plans in 2023 which call for a mixed-use development project zoned for Planned Use Development (PUD) with the ability to mitigate wetlands on the south end of the 230-acre site without acquisition of off-site property.

A spokesperson for the Colliers group said this week that the seller of both properties is listed as the TAM group which is an affiliate of Axys Capital. Axys Capital loaned \$18 million to the developers of the Schlitterbahn waterpark in 2015 then bought both of the tracts currently for sale at public auction on the steps of the Nueces County Courthouse in a \$9 million credit buy after the waterpark was placed in bankruptcy. Included in that purchase was the Cape Summer (Ski Basin) area consisting of more than 3000 undeveloped lots making Axis Capital the largest landholder on Padre Island. Axys Capital also owns a 6.39-acre tract on the south end of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall which was also purchased as part of the 2018 bankruptcy proceedings.

No purchase price is listed for either of the two properties and a Colliers official said this week a non-disclosure agreement must be signed by any potential buyer before a price is revealed.

The notice by the Colliers group listing the properties reads as follows:

Dallas Multifamily Advisors and New York Capital Markets have been retained as the exclusive agent to arrange the sale of Park 22, a 10.33-acre mixed-use development opportunity with CR-2 Resort Commercial zoning on North Padre Island. Ideally located at the Whitecap Boulevard and Park 22 intersection, the site sits in the heart of North Padre Island, within a 15-minute drive to Corpus Christi and Port Aransas.

Dallas Multifamily Advisors and New York Capital Markets have been retained as the exclusive agent to arrange the sale of Commodores Landing (Site). The Site is a 230.85-acre (142.02 developable acres) development site ideally suited for a coastal master-planned community on North Padre Island, in the heart of the South Texas Coast. Located within a two- to three-and-a-half-hour drive from major Texas cities such as Houston, San Antonio, and Austin, the Site is an attractive destination for second homes sought by affluent families. With over 5,000 feet of street frontage along Commodores Drive and Aquarius Street, the Site offers exceptional visibility and direct water access to the Gulf of Mexico via either Laguna Madre or Corpus Christi Bay, enhancing its appeal for waterfront living.

Plans for a multi-use development of the Whitecap property were released in 2023 along with an application with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which allows for the filling of the 10-acre tract which

previously had been listed as wetlands by the Corps of Engineers. Under current city ordinances developing that tract would require it to be raised to a base flood elevation of eleven feet above sea level. The area was excavated after Hurricane Allen in 1980 to fill land along the adjacent Cruiser canal where 1100 feet of bulkheads were destroyed turning the Whitecap property into wetlands until a reclassification by the Corps of Engineers clearing the way for development.

Axys Capital Credit Fund filed a permit with the Galveston office of the U.S. Corps of Engineers for the Whitecap site in July, 2023. It reads as follows:

The Applicant proposes to place approximately 21,500 cubic yards of clean earthen fill into 8.8 acres of palustrine wetland in order to construct a hotel and condominium residences on North Padre Island, Texas. The project would consist of a five-story development, including one-, two, three, and four-bedroom units with ground floor retail and office components, and a rooftop pool, restaurant, bar, and amenity desk. Site development would also include additional commercial pad sites within the property boundary to support the overall project. In total, the project includes 245 residential units, 27,802-square-foot of commercial space, 15,645-square-foot of office space, 2,635-square-foot of storage, two restaurant pad sites totaling 11,148-square-foot, parking facilities for 690 vehicles, and various other common areas and amenities.

The Aquarius (Commodores Landing) site was also part of the 2018 purchase by Axys Capital and plans call for a marina as well as both single and multi-family development. Original plans called for a water passage under Aquarius Street and across the property to the Laguna Madre, however, those plans have since been changed and the water passage is no longer included. The tract stretches from Primavera Drive in the north, along Aquarius St. southward to Commodores Pointe.

Five acres of the Aquarius site near Primavera Drive was previously set aside as permanent wetlands to mitigate development around the Lake Padre area, however, when ownership of the two tracts was severed in the 2018 bankruptcy proceedings that five-acre site was removed from mitigation clearing the way for development there. A check of the records with the Nueces County Appraisal District shows the Aquarius property to include more than 1000 lots divided into eleven fingertip strips of land still listed under the previous ownership of Asset Development Corp.



Part of the listed property on Aquarius St looking north.



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The Art of Island Life

Something Beautiful Has Bloomed: The Next Chapter for Padre Island Art Gallery



By Melissa Mitchell



The Gallery's New Look - Evoke Studio & Gifts

This time of year always carries a quiet hum of anticipation. With the first hint of cooler weather—finally dipping below 80 degrees, our Island version of fall—it feels as though the air itself is shifting, preparing for what's next. That feeling is especially strong inside the gallery right now. Between the hum of preparations, the sparkle of new arrivals, and the buzz of excitement, it's clear that something new is about to unfold.

Before we step into that next chapter, though, we have one more moment to celebrate.

One Last Wave Before What's Next



Nathan Floyd and Wade Koniakowsky

On Friday, November 8th at 6 p.m., Padre Island Art Gallery will host its final major event in the current space—a Surf Art & Poster Show, featuring acclaimed surf artist Wade Koniakowsky and Texas surf legend Nathan “Nate” Floyd, along with live music and refreshments.

Recently, Nate shared with me that this show carries a special kind of full-circle magic. As a teen, he accompanied his father—a fellow surfer and friend of Wade—to one of Wade's exhibits, never imagining he'd one day share gallery space with the artist he admired. It's a connection that makes this moment even more meaningful. Years later, to stand alongside Wade as a fellow artist feels like the tide bringing things beautifully back around. Wade's luminous coastal works have been showcased from California to Hawaii, while Nate's photography and art capture the soul of Texas surf culture. Together, their show brings the best of coastal creativity under one roof—art, ocean, and community all flowing together in one memorable evening.

It's a fitting finale for this beloved space—and the perfect wave to ride into a new beginning.



Evoke Studio & Gifts Selfie Wall

A New Chapter Unfolds at the Gallery

After three and a half years as the owner of *Padre Island Art Gallery*—and after hearing and carefully considering the thoughts and requests of so many loyal supporters—a new identity is taking shape. One that still celebrates art, but also embraces design, experience, and connection in fresh, meaningful ways.

Something beautiful has bloomed. A new name. A familiar heart.

Introducing **Evoke Studio & Gifts**—opening soon.

The name *Evoke* was chosen with intention. It captures everything I hope this next chapter will bring. To *evoke* is to stir emotion, to inspire thought, to create connection. It's what art has always done for me, and what I hope this new space continues to do for everyone who walks through its doors.

The gallery will remain in the same building, but transition to a new corner suite, complete with a wheelchair-accessible ramp and an updated layout designed for a more welcoming, interactive experience. *Evoke Studio & Gifts* is a boutique-style gallery that feels less like a traditional gallery and more like an experience—one that invites you to linger, laugh, and return often.

Here's a glimpse of what's to come:

Fine Art (remains at the heart): A thoughtfully curated collection of original art from the local artists we all know and love—and a few of them with some special series surprises. Each piece tells a story and celebrates the talent of our coastal creatives.

Boutique: A unique shopping experience featuring a *hat bar* and *tiara station*—a charming way to share a little “mommy and me” time—along with a beautiful selfie wall, small-batch artisan brands, and hand-made goods—from soaps and dog treats to inspired gifts, t-shirts, books, and home accessories. Every piece is chosen with care and quality in mind.

Events: Daytime and evening socials, artist spotlights, trunk shows, makers group sessions, and themed gatherings that celebrate art and connection in a relaxed yet refined setting.

Exclusive Soirées: Private shopping parties and girls' nights designed for laughter, creativity, and lasting memories—with access to *Evoke's* hat and tiara bar, curated displays, and signature coastal hospitality. At *Evoke Studio & Gifts*, creativity isn't confined to the canvas—it's found in the details, the conversations, and the shared joy of discovery.

Stay-tuned—The official opening date to follow soon.

The Heart Remains

This next chapter isn't about saying goodbye—it's about growing into what this business was meant to be.

For me, *Padre Island Art Gallery* has always been more than walls and artwork. It's been a gathering place—a space for collaboration and community. That same spirit will carry forward into *Evoke*, just in a new and more intentional way. Because every great story has a next chapter—and this one promises to be its most inspiring yet.

A Peek Ahead

For a first look at what's coming up—including a sneak peek of the new logo and the feel of the space—visit our brand-new website: evokebymelissa.com (it's not fully functional yet, but it's ready for a first glance!).

And before we officially turn the page, I hope you'll join us to celebrate what *was*, what *is*, and what's *to come*.

Friday, November 8th at 6 p.m. Surf Art & Poster Show — featuring Wade Koniakowsky & Nathan “Nate” Floyd.

What a way to close this chapter—and begin the next. I truly can't think of a better way.

Stay tuned for the official opening date of the new boutique gallery space! I can't wait to share it with you.

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.



That look your partner gives you when you break out in song.
Photo By Riekie Roncinske



Mike and Rosie Washburn took the Moon to the Dia de Los Muertos in Oaxaca, Mexico.



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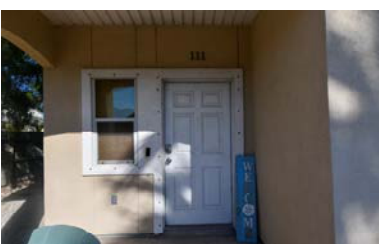
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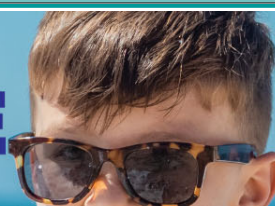
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Island Outdoors



On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

One of the things discussed the other day at the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) was the upcoming Bond 2026 priorities for the Island. The subcommittee discussed and voted that we would continue to support the city's bond initiatives, because, after all, they passed the first time. So, the priorities are to continue Commodores Park (Bond 2024), the Paper streets (don't get me started), and the projects under the JFK Causeway (Bond 2018). For those of you loyal readers who are tired of me writing about this project, just jump down two paragraphs.

For the rest of you, back in 2018, I was paying attention to the Bond list as newly elected chair of ISAC and realized that there were no projects on the city's list for the Bond program. NONE. Needless to say, our fearless leader Greg Smith also realized this, and we blew up the telephone lines at city hall and managed to get a token project put on, a continuation of a project that was started back in 2009. Back then, Jeff Edmonds (now city engineer) and I were tasked with rebuilding the boat ramps and paving the parking lot beside and underneath the bridge. As we worked through the permitting and design phase, we realized that the budget wasn't going to get everything done. We had to build a retaining wall on the east side of Billings in order to keep nuisance tides from getting into the parking lot. We got that built and some paving in front of the boat ramps, and that's all we could do. However, the permits and agreements with TxDot were all in place by 2010 and we thought we had the ball rolling pretty good.

The project obviously sat fallow for another decade by the time it was my turn at the helm of ISAC, and we picked that back up as a committee in 2020. I appointed Jodi Steen as the chair of the subcommittee, and she tore off into it along with Kaylynn and Dotson and a few others, and they came up with a pretty good wish list. These items were led by parking improvements, but also included the curve geometry for the exit, stabilize the eroding shoreline on the north-east side, signage-striping-and illumination, fix the access roads, raise the Snoopy's parking lot, fill in the land next to Doc's, and fix the boat ramps (now in disrepair). Did I mention pave the parking areas?

Fast forward to today when we're trying to get the project on Bond 2026, just a short 17 years after we first tackled the issue. The political will seems to move a bit slower than we're accustomed to. The wheel has been reinvented, and latest and greatest newest drawings that were paid for, again, but the plans only include paving under-

neath the shadow of the Causeway; not the parking lot, no striping, no illumination, nothing from the above list. I'm not trying to dig at the city, or TxDOT, or any of the alphabet soup of agencies or people that own the land or have jurisdiction over the project; and that is likely why there hasn't been more of a concerted effort to improve things there. We have to remember that is one of the first places people see when coming to the Island, so let's get on the stick and get this done, shall we?

We also talked about the need to complete the paper streets, including Sand Dollar, Crows Nest, and the south end of Palmira south of Sea Pines. Our fearless leader Craig put some numbers together and figured out that the cumulative input back into the TIRZ #2 would pay for the construction dollars in around 10 years. I'd say that's a conservative number, and there's factors like how long it would actually take to build out those areas and best usage and all that. That is an argument for another day, but I will maintain that the city needs to continue to get those designed and engineered over the next couple of years, and then we should be able to build them at some point (at least faster than the 40-50 years it's taken so far.) Coming soon in 2019, right?

Anyhoo, as usual I went down another rabbit hole. The weather this weekend looks great, and y'all need to get out and enjoy the weather while it's still here. I want to wish one of my best friends and digital layout Moon Monkey Jacob Augs a very happy birthday, and also an early happy 10th anniversary to him and his beautiful bride Lauren Lou Paz. Here's to many more. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Augs taking a break on a nice day



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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Don't fight the Current



The owners of SUNSET BAIT COMPANY at Marker 37 Marina STONED these big flounder the last day of open season, they have had tanks full of live shrimp and even live croaker this week. Farah

If you choose to swim against the current, you will never win over Mother Ocean. Relax and let the flow carry you with Grace and ease through life and fishing. I watched today boats zipping back and forth on their trolling motors seeing only a few target fish, we drifted along with the wind and casted to literally hundreds of redfish and black drum. As soon as we angled the boat into the wind or even sideways, they would feel the resistance of our boat in the flow, and we would not see any. Drift fishing this month is the best way to cover water and find fish. Once you locate a specific zone of production, fine tune your position to spend as much time there as possible during the best lunar feeding time. I like long drifts over the transitions in our bays, but when the bite is slow I want to shorten those long drifts up and stay in the best strike zone as much as possible. During the slower best of times I'll pick up large mature fish that are scattered out in small pockets away from the bulk of the fish population.

When the lunar feeding times are not strong and catching seems to be tough, don't push harder, let up and relax. This is the time for exploration, a sandwich, or moving to other spots. As in life, don't force what is not there, pull back and evaluate what is around you. The clues to the big picture will always come to light. A great friend and client Mr Lee sent me a wonderful quote,

THINGS WORK OUT BEST FOR THOSE WHO MAKE THE BEST OUT IF THE WAY THINGS WORK OUT.

Mark Twain

We dashed over the rippled surface as the Moon set to the west and the sun rose over our right shoulders. Blue to our right and a bright orange glow over Padre. We stalled the boat to a quiet halt and the first three casts brought trout to the rail. It was fast action and we could see the trout snipping baitfish from the glassed surface. The moon fell behind us and the sun broke free and blinded us as we casted with the west wind. That bite was over when the moon and sun finished touching. That is the magical few moments once a month when the moon and Sun kiss each other in front of us. Sometimes we find ourselves in a special moment in time when everything just lines up, for a moment. In between might not be lit up on both horizons, but beautiful. In time those perfect moments will circle back again, just relax and go with the flow, your next cast may be the best of your life. Research your lunar feeding times and make timing the feed times a goal in the next few weeks.

The first few weeks of December are going to be extremely good fishing, and if you call me now we can plan ahead for the best lunar feeding days for monster trout! Do not forget to get your shoes off, and lay them along the ocean. When you feel the cool water swirl around your legs, and the last of the warm sun's rays run his hands through your hair. Be patient, spring and summer will fill us all up again soon.

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Lots of Fall Colors in and out of the water right now! Bright orange redfish sightcasted along the ICW Canal just south of the JFK. Farah



The Thanksgiving Table: A Food-Culture Map

By Chris Jordan

Turkey is the passport; everything else is a stamp – here’s how Thanksgiving really looks when you zoom out from that can of cranberry sauce.

New England swears by oysters and cranberries, and frankly, so do I. The first time I ate an oyster dressing that didn’t taste like low tide, I was in Massachusetts. This was because someone treated the bivalves like seafood, not seasoning – briny, plump, folded in late, and not punished in an underserved oven. That approach has traveled down the coast into the Mid-Atlantic and across the Gulf, picking up cornbread along the way like a genteel hitchhiker. Meanwhile, a New England bowl of cranberry relish (the kind with orange and a whiff of bitterness) is the palate reset you need between brown and beige things.

History remembers early New England harvest meals for wildfowl, venison, eels, and shellfish more than casseroles. Fast-forward four centuries, add immigrant routes and trade roads, and we’ve added a few leaves to the Thanksgiving table: *Lowcountry* rice traditions like *perloo*; *Gullah Geechee* lineages that still speak rice as a first language; New Orleans *mirlitons* and sweet potatoes crowding the sideboard; Appalachian apple cake stacked like someone’s on a dare; Great Lakes’ wild rice with cranberries or mushrooms; Upper Midwest *lutefisk* and *lefse* showing up like your aunt who always brings the same thing you secretly love – or hate; New Mexico’s green-chile cornbread dressing with *piñon*; Texas’ perennial tamale season peaking at Thanksgiving; Pacific Northwest salmon; Alaska’s moose and berries; Hawai’i’s *kālua* turkey with a plate lunch’s worth of sides; Puerto Rican *pavochón* – turkey dressed like crispy-roasted pork *pernil* – sometimes stuffed with *mofongo* and flanked by *arroz con gandules*. That, friends, is Thanksgiving in the U.S.A.

Thanksgiving sides work because they aren’t there for no reason. Starch – bread, rice, or *masa* – soaks up juices so nothing runs off the plate. Fat – butter, turkey drippings, or pork – carries the good smells and ties flavors together. Add heat to toast the edges, and you get texture without drying things out. A little smoke clings to meat and makes it taste like a holiday. Salt arrives at the four-way stop just in time to keep sweet, sour, and savory from crashing into each other.

New Orleans lays out mirlitons – what we know in South Texas as *chayote* – baked tender with shrimp or crab, sweet potatoes glossed with just enough sugar to annoy a Yankee, and oyster dressing that actually respects the oyster. Slide east and you hit the Lowcountry, where *perloo* – shrimp and sausage if you’re fancy, chicken if you’re not – gives the turkey some competition. Venture north into Appalachia and a proper *apple stack cake* shows up like a hillbilly tiramisu. There’s work in it: dried apples cooked down, layers baked one by one, the whole thing wrapped so the moisture evens out overnight. If patience had a sweet tooth, this would be it.

In the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes, wild rice isn’t a mere bit-player; it’s the star. The best versions don’t drown it – they add just enough stock, browned mushrooms or game drippings, maybe cranberries or squash, and leave the grains distinct. In Norwegian-American enclaves, you’ll spot *lefse* rolling in like a rotund *crêpe*, and the occasional *lutefisk*, which some politely admire from a distance, proving gratitude takes many forms. Head Southwest and into Texas, and *tamales* take the baton. One can toil alone or with a partner, but good *masa* and

a dozen pairs of hands make quick work of tradition. New Mexico threads green chiles through cornbread dressing – sometimes with the inclusion of piñon, which tastes like the holidays or an unwelcome spirit on the run. The Pacific Northwest sets salmon on the table without apology; in Alaska, subsistence foods sit shoulder to shoulder with turkey because that’s the point – the land feeds you – say thank you and hope for a mild winter.

Hawai’i does what Hawai’i does best: *kālua* turkey – smoke and steam, salt and tenderness – with sides that look like a mixed plate because that’s what the islands are. And if you grew up Puerto Rican or near it, *pavochón* reads like your favorite nursery rhyme; turkey falls in line when you treat it like *pernil*: garlic, oregano, citrus, *annatto*, and a pan of *mofongo* dressing that eats like its own meal. None of this is novel: it’s Americans doing what Americans do at the table: absorbing, hybridizing, remembering, and passing bowls to the left and the next generation.

Consider celebrating Indigenous foodways this Thanksgiving. If you add wild rice, venison, desert beans, or local fish to your menu and skip a couple of standardized casseroles, you’re not being trendy – you’re acknowledging whose food traditions came first. Maybe you keep the turkey; maybe you don’t. The day is bigger than one bird and a can-borne, ringed, magenta slug.

So here’s your permission slip, signed by a South Texas chef: serve the region you live in, the roots you claim, and the neighbors you love. Give thanks, pass the plate, and call it a day.

If you want to try your hand at making your own “city ham” this holiday season, here’s a recipe!

City Ham Curing solution ingredients for every one inch thickness of boneless raw ham:

4 cups water
¼ cup kosher salt
¼ cup brown sugar, packed
1 tablespoon black peppercorns
1 tablespoon coriander seeds
1 tablespoon mustard seeds
1 tablespoon juniper berries
2 bay leaves
4 garlic cloves, crushed
2 strips orange peel
¾ teaspoon dried thyme
1 cinnamon stick
1 teaspoon whole cloves
¾ teaspoon pink curing salt #1 (NOT Himalayan pink salt)
Instructions:

1. Combine all ingredients except curing salt in a large stock pot and bring to a boil. Remove from heat.
2. Chill in the refrigerator in a nonreactive container until below 40°F. Add curing salt and stir until dissolved.
3. Inject the ham with brine all over.
4. Submerge the ham in the curing solution, cover, and keep in the refrigerator (below 40°F) for 10 days.
5. Bake or smoke to an internal temperature of 145°F. Let rest 15 minutes before slicing.



Senior cont. from A1

“Captain Robert E. ‘Bob’ Batterson embodied the very best of what it means to be an American hero. His life was a testament to courage, service, and dedication—not just in uniform but also in his tireless efforts to honor and preserve the history of those who served alongside him. With this post office now bearing his name, generations of Texans and visitors alike will walk through its doors and be reminded of his remarkable legacy.”



World War II veterans Jose Mendez (left) and Bob Batterson (middle), and Korea veteran Dotson Lewis talk before the screening of “Summer of 42: The Coastal Bend Goes To War” aboard the USS Lexington.

Captain Robert “Bob” E. Batterson was a beloved member of the Coastal Bend community who spent his retirement volunteering and sharing his experiences at the U.S.S Lexington Museum for 26 years. Prior to that, Capt. Batterson served in WWII as a Navy Aviator and was present at the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In fact, he was believed to be one of the last survivors of Pearl Harbor in the Coastal Bend.

Capt. Batterson passed away on Aug. 11, 2023, at 102 years old. He was a familiar face in the Coastal Bend and longtime USS Lexington volunteer. The Coastal Bend mourned the loss, erecting a marker in remembrance of his service. But soon, there will be another lasting reminder of Capt. Batterson’s impact.

Batterson joined the Navy in 1939 and was assigned ashore at Naval Station Pearl Harbor when the attack happened in 1941. He said he was awakened by Japanese dive bombers flying between the barracks.

“Well, we watch the Japanese just tear us apart and then we went below to see what we could do, and we were starting to take care of sailors who were being brought in,” Batterson said. “They’d been picked up out of the burning oil.” He said ultimately, he was assigned to fight the fires aboard the burning battleships, and by the end of the day he said it felt like the war was already lost. *Then a Jap torpedo plane... flew by every 10 to 15 seconds on their way to Battleship Row.*

He retired after 35 years of service. He then spent more than three decades volunteering at USS Lexington in Corpus Christi.



Bob Batterson-Captain, U.S. Navy 1939-1974

Four years before his passing, Bob said, “I was born in Mason City, West Virginia in 1921. I finished high school and joined the Navy in 1939. I was assigned to the cruiser USS *Philadelphia* as the powderman on a 6” turret gun. The feeling among the enlisted men was if the Japs wanted to take us on, we’d wipe them out in three months. I thought of them with buck teeth and heavy glasses. Was I ever surprised at Pearl Harbor when those pilots and gunners flew by in the torpedo planes—handsome dudes. It changed my attitude about the Japanese.

In 1941 I made 3rd class petty officer and was assigned to a big commissary store at Pearl Harbor. At night I worked in the

officers’ club posting chits. On December 7, 1941 I was sleeping in the enlisted barracks with 20 other guys. We were ticked off because we thought it was a drill on a Sunday morning. Then a Jap torpedo plane flew by and we knew we were at war. One flew by every 10 to 15 seconds on their way to Battleship Row. We were less than a mile away and had a perfect view of everything.

We started to help survivors being brought in and were then ordered to a firefighting party for the *Cassin* and *Downes* destroyers, which had been bombed in dry dock. As we got into the truck to go down there, we were strafed. I don’t know how they missed us, but they did. At 9:30 it became quiet. The Japanese had canceled their third strike, which saved our necks. A third strike would have neutralized Pearl Harbor as a logistic support base.

They opened pilot training to enlisted personnel, and I put in for it. By darn, just about a year later I was in flight training. Eighteen months later I got my wings and was assigned to the Hellcat fighters. I couldn’t believe I’d be a fighter pilot. The F6 had 2800 horsepower. I’ll never forget sitting there waiting to give her a throttle and whoa! That was a thrill. We thought we’d be assigned to an operating squadron and get out there and hit the Japs. We ended up in a replacement squadron at Pearl Harbor. When the war ended in Europe, the Army Air Corps guys came through on their way to take on Japan. We got into some interesting dogfights with them.

Then we had an air collision and were told we’d lose our wings if we kept dogfighting. That ended the fun.



Seaman Bob Batterson-Long Beach, CA, 1940

Our team of six fighter pilots got ship-to-shore bombardment training and joined the *Bennington* with VF-1. My first combat hop was spotting for the USS *Massachusetts* during the bombardment of the Imperial Ironworks in Kamai-shi, Japan. I said, “Hot damn! At last!” There wasn’t much left of that ironworks when it was over.

After the war I requested regular Navy as an aviator, but there were 20 applicants for every vacancy. I had been a storekeeper with an excellent record, so I went through supply corps school. I got a degree in business management in 1955. Then I was selected for a master’s degree in management at the Naval post-graduate school. I retired in 1974 with the rank of captain.

I worked for the Diocese of Corpus Christi for ten years, and I’ve volunteered at the Pearl Harbor Exhibit on the Lexington for 26 years. My first wife and I were married 55 years and had five kids. I’ve been married to Hilda for 17 years. I’m 98 and no spring chicken, but I’m determined that I’m going to help our country as long as I’m able.” Dotson’s Other Note: Thanks to Bob Batterson, Hilda Batterson, Sophia Englehart and Ana Tamez for the facts contained in this report, and to Ana Tamez and the US Navy for the photos.



US Sailing multihull Championships are taking place on north beach this week. by Debbie Noble

The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

This week marks the 50th anniversary of its sinking



By Sheryl Wegmann
Editor's note: Sheryl is a longtime Islander who owns property on the shore of Lake Superior
The Legend Lives on from the Chippewa on Down..... words from the haunting 1976 tune by Gordon Lightfoot describing the Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, the largest ship ever to go down in the Great Lakes on November 10, 1975. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wreck of the *SS Edmund Fitzgerald*. There will be many remembrances on November 10th in Superior, WI, Whitefish Point, MI, and Detroit, MI. When the ship was built in 1958 by Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, it was named after the company president, Mr. Edmund Fitzgerald. At the time the ship began sailing the Great Lakes, it was the largest vessel on the Great Lakes at 729 feet in length. The *Fitz* was a work-horse of a ship having hauled record-breaking amounts of cargo over the years.

On the 9th of November, 1975, the *Fitz* left port from Superior, Wisconsin, under the command of Capt. Ernest M. McSorley, with a crew of 28. Her load was iron-ore pellets headed for Detroit, Michigan. She departed WI about 2:15 pm at which time the weather was good. A storm had been predicted to pass below Lake Superior and was of no concern to the *Fitz*. Five hours later, however, the National Weather Service updated their prediction. Far from passing by to the south, the storm would bring gale force winds to the entire Lake Superior. When Capt. McSorley was updated on the storm, he changed the course of direction, steering the ship to the north along the Canadian shoreline where it might be able to find some shelter from the waves and wind. By 1:00AM on the 10th of November, the *Fitz* was battling her way through a powerful storm with hurricane force winds and waves more than 35 feet high smashing against the ship. The *Fitz* crawled onwards in the unrelenting storm. At 2:45PM the storm worsened and snow was added to the mix forcing the *Fitz* to slow to a crawl. At 3:30PM, Capt. McSorley radioed another nearby ship, the *Arthur M. Anderson* which was following the same course as the *Fitz* about 10 miles behind with the message: "Anderson, this is the *Fitzgerald*. I have a fence rail down, two vents lost or damaged, and a list. I'm checking down. Will you stay by me till I get to Whitefish?" All ships on Lake Superior looked forward to seeing the beacon of light from the Whitefish Point Lighthouse. It marked the entrance into the more protected waters of Whitefish Bay. Around 7:10PM, the *Anderson* checked in on the *Fitz* asking how they were managing. Capt. McSorley replied, "We are holding our own." That would be the last communication of any kind from the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. The *Anderson* radioed again and again, but the *Fitz* did not answer and they could not spot the ship on radar. The *Anderson* contacted the Coast Guard first to express concern, then to report the *Fitz* as missing. By 9:00PM, the *Anderson* had reached safe harbor in Whitefish Bay. The Coast Guard asked the *Anderson* to turn around and venture back out into Lake Superior to search for the *Fitz*. The Capt. of the *Anderson* informed the Coast Guard that he'd turn back around and take a look, but he was afraid he was going to take a hell of a beating. Despite the awful conditions, the *Anderson* led the search finding only a damaged lifeboat and a couple life jackets from the *Fitz*. After many hours of search, the only conclusion that could be reached was that the *Fitz* had gone down with all twenty-nine crew members. There had been no distress signal, and not one of the crew members had been able to escape in a lifeboat. The wreckage was discovered five days after the sinking. The ship had broken into two pieces. Even now, after years of extensive investigations, there are many theories as to how the *Fitz* sank, but it remains a mystery.

A witness speaks

Two years ago, I interviewed Brent G.

Biehl, a long-time resident of the ghost town Shelldrake, located halfway between Paradise and Whitefish Point. He remembered the night of November 10th as a night he would never forget.

The day started out like any other November day. Brent's children went to the Paradise school that morning. By lunchtime the wind had picked up and was strong enough to topple trees down onto the power lines knocking the power out to the school and the entire Whitefish Point area. The happy kids were released from school after lunch. One of Brent's daughters and her boyfriend drove to Whitefish Point where they could watch the wild waves. They were unaware of the brewing storm as they drove past the Whitefish Point lighthouse parking lot and onto the beach. As they watched the big lake, it became darker and more ominous. A rogue wave surged toward them and they got wet as they ran for their car. As they drove home, they had a foreboding that the approaching storm was more powerful than any storm they'd ever seen before.

Late in the afternoon the weather deteriorated, and the water in Whitefish Bay turned an ugly green and began rising. Brent was worried about his parents who lived a few miles to the north near the Whitefish Point lighthouse. He decided to drive the ole family station wagon down to check on the elderly couple. Three of his kids, always up for an adventure, piled into the vehicle. At the last minute, Brent tossed his chainsaw into the car. The road was passable, but branches and limbs littered the area. They found the elderly couple to be okay, despite having no power. Leaving his folks house, Brent decided to drive to Whitefish Point to check on the lighthouse. He soon found the road blocked by a giant pine tree blown over in the wind trapping a couple in a vehicle tipped over in the ditch. As soon as he ascertained no one was injured, he was able to clear the branches from around the car and clear enough of the tree so the road was passable. By the time they got to the lighthouse, it sat in the darkening evening with no beacon of light shining from the top out over the lake to help guide ships into the safe harbor of Whitefish Bay. The lake had risen and flooded the yard and parking lot of the lighthouse. Brent ran through the water around to the rear of the lighthouse and found the generators flooded. There was no way he could get any power to turn the beacon on. He returned to the station wagon and found it rocking in the wind with water up to the doors. The kids were scared. It was too dangerous to remain at the lighthouse, so they returned home.

The storm raged all night, and sometime in the night, members of the Coast Guard came to the house enlisting Brent's help. Brent had been involved in numerous search and rescue missions over the years and was in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He was told that a ship, the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, had gone down with all 29 crew.

Brent, as well as other neighbors and volunteers from the Paradise area assisted the Coast Guard in combing the beach in search of survivors. The Michigan National Guard arrived mid-morning in a large helicopter and joined the search. By afternoon, there were 21 ships and boats in Whitefish Bay all assisting in the search.

After an exhaustive week of searching the water and combing the shore, no survivors were found. The *Fitzgerald* was found five days later, on the bottom of Lake Superior, broken into two pieces.

The Whitefish Point Lighthouse is now a maritime museum displaying the history of the shipwreck coast and artifacts from dives to various shipwrecks. On November 10, 2025, the recovered bell from the *Fitzgerald* will be rung 29 times at Whitefish Point. R.I.P. to all who passed away on the lakes. Brent has now passed on, but will always be remembered for his fascinating stories about the Whitefish Point area.



THE RESTORED BELL

The Bell of the Edmond Fitzgerald

The bell of the Edmund Fitzgerald was raised in 1995 under the coordination of many organizations. It was restored before being placed in the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum by Michigan State University. To initially clean the bell, rust spots and deposits (iron corrosion) were cleaned with dental picks, and then the sulfide coating was removed with very soft bristle toothbrushes and baking soda. Following this step, researchers continued using lemon juice and formic acid (found in bee stings).

The restored bell weighs approximately 200 pounds and is 21 1/2 inches in diameter at its base. It is displayed currently on permanent loan at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, which made additional changes to the bell, such as adding the shiny finish which can be seen on the bell today.

The bell is on permanent display at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Michigan and is used each November 10th in the bell-ringing ceremony in memory of the 29 crewmen of the Edmund Fitzgerald.



Welcome back. Photo by Jim Gilmore

Skipper Tales

Love What You Do

By: Tess Clark

They say if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. But I'll tell you first hand, that's not quite true, because passion still comes with strife.

We love what we do and we work hard too, but it's tough on us nonetheless. We plan, we build, we dream, we grind, and we always aim to impress.

The smallest details take the most time, and they spiral into more. What looks so simple from the outside took hours of effort before.

We face the rush, the stress, the load, we bend, we lift, we fight. We push through long days and tired hands to make sure it all feels right.

We share your smiles, we share your hopes, as we help your visions thrive. It's our job to make them happen, to see your dreams come alive.

We're not complaining, we're just explaining, that old saying missed the score. We love what we do and we work hard too, and we'll always come back for more.



American white Pelican diet consists of a variety of fish such as minnows, carp, and trout, but can also include crustaceans, salamanders, and frogs depending on location and season. Photo By Riekie Roncinske



Reflections of Padre By Michelle Walters

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Azali Homes Building at Whitecap NPI

Building to match Whitecap NPI’s vision for lasting luxury on the Island

If you have driven the Island lately, you have seen frames rising at Whitecap NPI. Among the crews on site is Azali Homes, a Coastal Bend builder that knows our weather, our water, and our way of living.

When Whitecap NPI was looking for builders who could meet the community’s high bar for design, durability, and finish, Azali Homes rose to the top. Their specialty is high-end coastal homes that feel easy to live in and stand up to Island life, which makes them a natural fit for what Whitecap NPI is becoming.

Azali Homes is led by Alex Azali, with children Sara and Karo following in the footsteps, continuing the rich family tradition. They have been building along the Texas Gulf Coast for more than twenty-years. Their reputation was earned on customization and clear guidance from first conversation to final walk-through. Owners get practical help on the design choices that reflect who they are and how they want to live.

As Karo Azali notes, “We will build as fast as demand drives the process. We have the resources, expertise, and a proven track record of twenty plus years to handle demand without sacrificing the level of quality this consumer base expects.”

At Whitecap NPI, Azali Homes is building to Texas Department of Insurance coastal wind standards with pre-approved plans developed by Whitecap NPI. Roof systems and exteriors are designed to be easy to maintain, with the whole home planned for strength and durability. Foundations use engineered helical pilings that twist to stable layers beneath the sand, so your home sits on something solid. This is the benefit of a local builder that understands quality and the Island.

Whitecap NPI calls the look Coastal Contemporary. Clean lines. Honest materials. Shade where you want it and light where you need it, with windows that frame the views. Azali Homes carries that idea through the details.

Azali Homes did not arrive at Whitecap NPI by accident. When Diamond Beach Holdings set out to create a community that puts nature and water at its center, they needed builders who could meet a high bar for craft and consistency. Azali Homes’ reputation around the Coastal Bend earned the invitation. The team understands local subs, schedules, and the little choices that add up to quality with knowledge that comes from building here for years.

There are seventy-five first-release homesites available today, primarily on the community’s north side and along the canal that leads toward the Commodores Drive Water Exchange Bridge. Azali Homes will debut multiple multi-level Showcase Homes to display the range of design elements and plan options available to future residents. These Showcase Homes are slated for completion mid-2026. Azali Homes is also building on an additional homesite they purchased, a sign of confidence in the vision of Whitecap NPI. All the homes, including these, and the homesites will be exclusively sold and marketed by Strategyst LLC.

At the helm of Strategyst LLC is Arnold Seitel, founder and CEO. With decades of resort and residential experience across the U.S. and abroad, he recognizes how special Whitecap NPI is and believes in the Azali family to deliver coastal luxury to families and generations to come.

Looking ahead, the fully realized Whitecap NPI plan includes an amenity-rich landscape with a future downtown district and a state-of-the-art marina. Together with the canal network and Preserve, these pieces will give residents a immediate access to water, nature, friends, and neighbors.

Visit the Whitecap NPI Sales Center to secure your homesite and discuss how your family can be part of the Whitecap Family. The team is available seven days a week and more than happy to serve.



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

New York City is a noisy place. Having spent a lot of time in Chicago, this didn’t surprise me. We were able to visit New York City for the first time a few weeks ago. We greatly enjoyed seeing the sights NYC has to offer. However, it is a noisy place. People. Vehicles and their incessant horns. Sirens. Road construction. Buses. Subway trains. Helicopters. NYC is a noisy city.

Amid the noise I was reminded about a Native American wisdom story. A man went to visit his friend in a big city. It was noisy. As they were walking down a street, the man suddenly stopped and asked his friend if he heard the cricket. The friend was mystified. How could he hear a cricket in such a noisy place. The man went over to a planter. Sure enough, he found the cricket.

His friend wanted to know how he could hear a cricket amid the noise of the city. The man didn’t say a word. He simply reached in his pocket, pulled out a couple of coins and dropped them on the sidewalk. Immediately several people began to reach in their pocket or look down at the sidewalk. The man remarked that we hear what our ears are trained to hear.

The world is a noisy place. Distractions are unending. We are easily distracted by the trivial; we are effortlessly hypnotized by fear. In our partisan and sectarian culture this results in being slow to listen, quick to speak, quick to anger. Which is the opposite of what the Bible teaches. “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.” (James 1:19) No wonder we are distracted by us-versus-them noise.

There is a story about Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. Martha welcomed Jesus. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening to what he had to say. Martha was distracted by the many tasks of hospitality. Martha complained to Jesus. She wanted Jesus to tell Mary to get busy and help her. Jesus rebuked Marha for being worried and distracted by many things. The issue wasn’t the serving involved with hospitality. The issue was being worried and distracted.

Imagining a community based in diversity, inclusion, equity, and love seems like an impossibility in our time of worry and distraction, fear and division. Yet, this is what God imagines for humanity as evidenced in the ministry of Jesus. What we do know is that we can’t build community on the principles of self-interest and entitlement. This creates armed camps of winners and losers, strong and weak.

In the epic poem, *The Odyssey*, Odysseus journeys back from Troy to Ithaca. It requires a long sea voyage. On the way he and his crew encounter many obstacles that string out the journey from months to years. One of the more difficult obstacles is on the Land of the Lotus-Eaters. There was a flowering plant with narcotic properties growing on this island. When crew members ate of the lotus plants they became so filled with pleasure that they forgot about their homes and families. The things they most desired, were no longer important. They literally had to be dragged back to the ship.

Amid our cultural noise and uncertainty, a different voice speaks. It is a voice that is not shaped by the tactics of this age, but by the character of Jesus and the priorities of the realm of God. It is a voice that calls us into an atmosphere of self-giving love that can transform a mass of alienated individuals into a caring community. It is the voice that invites compassion, kindness, mercy, and generosity. May we be quick to listen to this voice.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans also gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.
pastor@islandpresby.com



Sailing sunset

Federal Red Snapper Season Closes November 21

The 2025 recreational red snapper season in federal waters will close at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, making this the longest federal red snapper season since 2007. Saltwater anglers enjoyed 173 days of offshore red snapper fishing along the Texas coast this year. After the closing date, anglers in Texas state waters out to nine nautical miles can continue to keep up to four red snapper per day with a 15-inch minimum length limit. “The 2025 federal red snapper season offered nearly six months of red snapper fishing opportunities to the people of Texas,” said Robin Riechers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division Director. “This remarkable milestone clearly shows that regional management of fisheries works to provide greater benefits and fishing opportunities to anglers. We look forward to continuing to work with Texas’ saltwater anglers to maintain this important fishery and ensure we create the maximum benefits to Texas and our anglers.”

The Nov. 21 closing date ends an extraordinary 173-day season in federal waters, added Riechers, and allows state waters to remain open until the total allowed state catch limit is reached. TPWD establishes the opening and closing of the recreational red snapper fishery in federal waters off Texas’ coast under an agreement between the department and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The federal red snapper season is managed by a quota system that uses red snapper catch data (in pounds of fish) to determine when a federal water closure is necessary. Texas closes the federal water fishery when the state’s catch limit in pounds is reached for the year, with enough cushion to make sure state waters can remain open until the end of the year. To estimate the state’s annual red snapper fishery harvest season, TPWD closely monitors red snapper landings through its creel survey program and mobile application. Anglers can continue to report snapper landings in state waters with TPWD’s mobile application, Texas Hunt & Fish.



New things are happening at the Island In The Son United Methodist Church!

Our congregation would like to invite the Padre Island communiy to come as you are to our Sunday Service, at 10 AM to meet our new Pastor, Steve Stephens, and his wife Leesa. We would love for you to join us on Sundays, and look forward to meeting you at worship.

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Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.
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Going Easy On You...

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

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7	3						5

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Mohs scale adjective
5. It can have one hump or two
10. Treat carefully
14. "Metamorphoses" poet
15. Ease
16. New money
17. Orr
20. Are in debt
21. Book opener
22. Make amends
23. Kind of cozy?
24. Nagano Olympic cauldron lighter
25. Or
34. Lake __ Vista
35. Novel plantation
36. View
37. Outer cover
38. "Paradise Lost" figure
39. Rummikub piece
40. In the past
41. Builder's map
42. "...all snug in __ beds"
43. Ore
47. Pierre, for one
48. EMTs' destinations
49. Plays and such
52. Geological concern
55. Strong reptile
58. Oar
61. Help in a heist
62. Mountain ridge
63. Hymn part
64. Soul mate?
65. Hymn part
66. Organ setting

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
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25	26	27				28	29	30				31	32	33
34						35					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					63			
64						65					66			

Down

1. Chaplin persona
2. Declare
3. Ascend
4. Banned pesticide
5. Where Caleb spied
6. E.g., e.g.
7. Trading place
8. Special case
9. Hawaiian welcome
10. Confer
11. Bahn leader?
12. Muffin stuff
13. Time past
18. "Carmen," for one
19. Archibald of the NBA
23. See after
24. __ Skavinsky
Skavar, song rival of Abdul Abulbul Amir
25. Garfield's middle name
26. "Super Mario" brother
27. Timber projection
28. In the slightest
29. Mongol invader
30. Really mad
31. Flexible twig
32. Something old
33. Tractor man
38. E-mail box clogger
39. Beginning of a conclusion
42. Rich cake
44. Bad blood
45. Horse of a different color
46. Buyer's need
49. Dull
50. Cyborg movie prefix
51. Blown away
52. Terminate
53. "So be it"
54. Not exceeding
55. More than just sing
56. Clued in about
57. Over
59. Hood's gun
60. Parental nicknames

By the numbers

October State Taxes

Oil production down, gas production up

Tax revenue numbers are a good barometer for the state of the Texas economy. The Texas Comptroller’s Office this week released the following numbers for October 2025. Receipts from retail trade, the largest sector, were down just slightly compared with the same month a year ago. This is the first time remittances from that sector have declined since July 2024. See the full story in this issue.

- **\$4.2 billion** state sales tax revenue in October, 4.6 percent more than in October 2024
- **\$695 million** motor vehicle sales and rental taxes —up 15 percent from October 2024
- **\$333 million** motor fuel taxes, up 3 percent from October 2024
- **\$405 million** oil production tax down 7 percent from October 2024

- **\$228 million** natural gas production tax up 26 percent from October 2024
- **\$65 million** hotel occupancy tax down 1 percent from October 2024
- **\$146 million** alcoholic beverage taxes down 1 percent from October 2024
- **2.2 percent** increase in receipts from restaurants, up from a year ago but below the rate of inflation for food away from home
- **5.2 percent** increase in total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in October 2025, up compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections



State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$4.2 Billion in October

(AUSTIN) — Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$4.2 billion in October, 4.6 percent more than in October 2024. The majority of October sales tax revenue is based on sales made in September and remitted to the agency in October. “Overall, state sales tax collections grew faster than general price inflation,” Hancock said. “This reflects a Texas economy that continues to expand at a moderate pace.” Collections from the sectors primarily influenced by business spending were once again mixed compared with the same month a year ago. The wholesale trade sector showed the strongest growth, coming in nearly double digits over October 2024 collections. Receipts from heavy and business equipment leasing companies also showed strong growth. Receipts from the mining sector were positive last month following a decline in September, while receipts from the construction and manufacturing sectors were below totals from a year ago. Receipts from retail trade, the largest sector, were down just slightly compared with the same month a year ago. This is the first time remittances from that sector have declined since July 2024. Among other major sectors driven mainly by consumer spending, the services sector showed moderate growth. Within the retail trade sector, remittanc-

es from electronics and appliance stores showed the largest gain, while receipts from home improvement centers and furniture and home furnishings stores declined from a year ago. Receipts from restaurants were up 2.2 percent from a year ago, below the rate of inflation for food away from home. Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in October 2025 was up 5.2 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections. Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

□ motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$695 million, up 15 percent from October 2024;

□ motor fuel taxes — \$333 million, up 3 percent from October 2024;

□ oil production tax — \$405 million, down 7 percent from October 2024;

□ natural gas production tax — \$228 million, up 26 percent from October 2024;

□ hotel occupancy tax — \$65 million, down 1 percent from October 2024; and

□ alcoholic beverage taxes — \$146 million, down 1 percent from October 2024.

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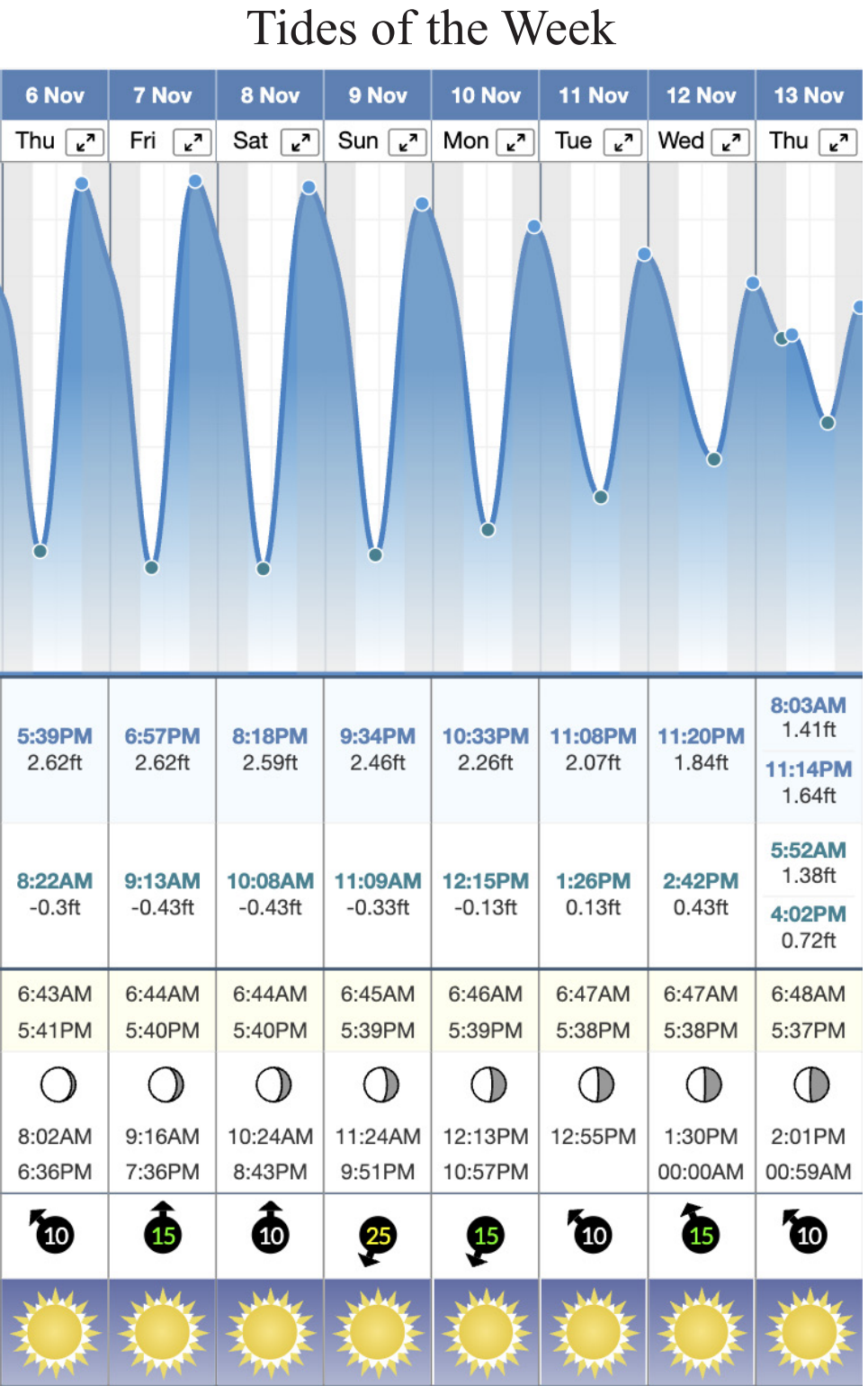
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Crossword Solution

H	A	R	D		C	A	M	E	L		B	A	B	Y
O	V	I	D		A	B	A	T	E		E	U	R	O
B	O	S	T	O	N	B	R	U	I	N	S	T	A	R
O	W	E		P	A	R	T	I		A	T	O	N	E
			T	E	A				I	T	O			
A	L	T	E	R	N	A	T	I	V	E	W	O	R	D
B	U	E	N	A		T	A	R	A		S	E	E	
R	I	N	D		S	A	T	A	N		T	I	L	E
A	G	O			P	L	A	T		T	H	E	I	R
M	I	N	E	R	A	L	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E
			N	O	M				E	R	S			
D	R	A	M	A		F	A	U	L	T		B	O	A
R	O	W	I	N	G	I	M	P	L	E	M	E	N	T
A	B	E	T		A	R	E	T	E		A	L	T	O
B	O	D	Y		T	E	N	O	R		S	T	O	P

Gene’s Corner



By Gene Saegert

How Old is Old Enough to Fish?

I have been fishing since I was old enough to hold a fishing pole. As I have said before my two sons will tell you that we were still using sharpened sticks at that time, still not true. We already had cane poles.

In our family we got fishing poles at a very early age along with BB guns when you were strong enough to cock them, even if you had to hold the stock between your feet and pull up the lever with both hands. And no, we never put out anyone’s eye, which was always our mothers greatest fear.

But back to fishing. In those days fishing was a little different. Most fishing trips were impromptu. We rolled the back window down on the old Buick straight eight and headed out with the cane poles sticking out of the window. When we got to the fishing hole we bailed out the old wooden boat, which was the only bail out we knew of in those days. We threw the Firestone 3.5 horse power motor on the back of the boat along with the paddles. No life preservers, yet we survived. The old Firestone had no reverse, no neutral only forward as I have stated before, you just started it and made sure you were headed where you wanted to go. We have come a long way since then.

oday when you go to Walmart or Academy, or Tackle Town you will see mind boggling rows and rows of lures. In my day we had a limited number of lures to choose from. My lure collection was basically the *Hawaiian Wiggler*, the *Hula Popper*, the *Heddon Spook*, and the *Jitterbug*. By today’s standards none of these looked like they should catch fish, but they did. The *Heddon Spook* looked more like a Halloween decoration than something that would catch fish. It was black with something that looked like a fish skeleton on both

sides. But it caught fish. The *Jitterbug* was my favorite because of the noise it made when you retrieved it.

These lures didn’t look like any living thing that I have ever seen but as I said before, they caught a lot of fish. Lures nowadays look so real especially the shrimp, that you don’t know whether to fish with them or dip them into cocktail sauce. And fishing attire what a change! In my day we wore shorts, a t-shirt and a baseball cap. There was no \$100 dollar amber or polarized sunglasses with lanyards. We went to the five and dime and bought a pair of sunglasses for six bits. That is 75 cents for you younger generation.

The other day we were going fishing and my son said “You are not going fishing without your Magellan shirt are you?”

The only Magellan I knew of back in the day was Ferdinand Magellan, who discovered the 1000 Islands or something and I always wondered did he actually count them. I guess I wasn’t paying attention is history anyway, because that cute little girl named Deanna with the pigtails sat right in front of me. I just guess that Ferdinand was just trying to impress Queen Isabella and “one up” Vasco De Gama so that he would keep his government funding. Some things just never change. We didn’t have a GPS or a fish finder either and if we found a good fishing spot we just marked a big X on the side of the boat so that we could find it next time. As the songwriter once said “Those were the days my friend, we thought they’d never end.”

Thought for the day As Stephen Wright once said,” If at first you don’t succeed then sky diving is not for you.”



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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

2025 World Series

Dotson’s Note: It was a great series, almost as good as 1986 (when the Mets beat the Red Sox in game 7). Thanks to Barry Bloom for the facts contained in this report and to Gregory Sharmes for the photo.



TORONTO — The Los Angeles Dodgers rolled out Shohei Ohtani one more time to start Game 7 of the World Series against the Toronto Blue Jays—and it almost cost them the title.

When the situation seemed most dire at Rogers Centre on Saturday night, Los Angeles leaned on Ohtani’s compatriot Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who returned to the mound in extra innings with no rest after [winning Game 6](#) and finished up the comeback victory. Will Smith’s 11th-inning homer was the deciding factor in the Dodgers’ 5-4 win over the Blue Jays.

But there’s no denying the impact Ohtani and Yamamoto had on the series. The two Japanese players, who signed contracts worth a total of \$1.025 billion as free agents last year, have now led the Dodgers to back-to-back World Series titles for any Major League Baseball team since the Yankees won three straight from 1998 to 2000.

“It’s all about heart,” Mark Walter, the club’s owner, said about Yamamoto, in particular. “He doesn’t want to lose. I think that’s the story of the whole team. You know, he basically won three games for us. That’s unheard of.”

Yamamoto, who was named World Series MVP, finished the playoffs 5-1 with a 1.45 ERA. He threw 96 pitches over six innings to win his Game 6 start on Friday night, and he followed that up with 2 2/3 innings of scoreless relief on 34 more pitches Saturday. He also pitched a complete game in Game 2, becoming the first pitcher since Randy Johnson in 2001 to earn three wins in a World Series.

“In today’s game, [Yamamoto] really showed that he’s the No. 1 pitcher in the world,” Ohtani said.

Ohtani’s own performance in Game 7 lasted 51 pitches and ended when Bo Bichette hit a three-run homer in the third inning. It was too much to ask Ohtani to start on three days of rest with the Dodgers short starting pitching. Ohtani was shaky right from the start, allowing base runners in every one of his three innings.

“I was just so honored to be able to start this game, and unfortunately I didn’t do too well, so I regret that,” Ohtani said.

Ohtani [started Game 4](#) at Dodger Stadium on Tuesday, allowing four runs on six hits as he worked into the seventh inning of the 6-2 loss. That game came a day after Ohtani set a record by reaching base nine consecutive times on two homers, two doubles and five walks, four of them intentional.

It begged the question whether Ohtani had the stamina to pitch a day after he was on base so many times in a [Game 3](#) the Dodgers won in 18 innings on a walk-off Freddie Freeman home run. Roberts noted

after the Game 4 loss that Ohtani appeared mortal.

The same question came up when he was handed the Game 7 start.

“Shohei has the weight of the world on him,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “He’s the face of baseball. He’s going to be the MVP of the National League. It’s really special what he’s done. He’s just a great person and a great competitor.”

Yamamoto was a different story. After Friday night’s 3-1 win, Roberts said all pitching hands would be on deck for the finale, sans Yamamoto. But the right-hander arrived at the ballpark on Saturday and told the manager he was available.

“I know I would be pitching two days in a row, but all my teammates were playing a number of games in a row,” Yamamoto said. “I told him I’d be there if he needed me to close this series.”

And that’s what happened.

“What Yoshi did tonight is unprecedented,” Roberts said. “There’s a mental component to it. There’s a flawless delivery. And there’s an unwavering will.”

After Ohtani faltered, the game was the Blue Jays’ to lose, but the Dodgers kept peeking away. Down 4-2 in the seventh, Max Muncy homered, and in the top of the ninth, the unlikely Miguel Rojas, who wasn’t in the lineup until Game 6, tied it with a homer on one out against Jays closer Jeff Hoffman. That sent the game spinning into the bottom of the ninth locked at 4-4.

Blake Snell opened the ninth for the Dodgers, but with an out and runners on first and second, the bullpen door swung open, and Yamamoto entered the game. He immediately hit Alejandro Kirk with a pitch loading the bases.

The situation for the Dodgers appeared dire and the Blue Jays seemed on the verge of winning their first World Series title in 32 years. But Daulton Varsho tapped a ball to Rojas at second who converted a force at the plate. And center fielder Andy Pages, a defensive replacement who had just entered the game for Tommy Edman, roamed wildly into left center to grab a fly ball hit by Ernie Clement.

That threat was over, but extra innings brought plenty more. The deciding factor came in the top of the 11th, as Smith homered with two outs off Game 4 starter Shane Bieber to give the Dodgers the lead.

In the bottom of the inning, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. led with a scorch of a double into the left field corner and was moved over to third on a sacrifice bunt. Addison Barger walked, and Roberts moved the infield in for a possible play at the plate and Kirk at bat. On an 0-2 pitch, Roberts moved the infield back to double play depth. With that, Kirk smacked a grounder to shortstop Mookie Betts who stepped on second base, throwing to Freeman at first for the final two outs.

And that’s the way one of the greatest World Series in recent history ended.

“There was so many pressure points on how that game could have flipped, and we just kept fighting,” Roberts said. “I could go on and on about the great plays and performances. I’m still trying to unpack it all. This is one of the greatest games I’ve ever been a part of.”

The final out: **Dodgers Win World Series on the Back of Series MVP Yamamoto**



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Pink, pink and more pink...



The Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl lines up at Red's and gets ready to crawl.

Except for the national chaos lurking at every turn, most everything else is fairly groovy right now. The cooler weather has finally made an appearance; we are right in the middle of summer tourist mayhem and our yearly Winter Texan invasion. Enjoy it while you got it because it won't last very long. I love all the fall events and cooler temps. This past weekend was a busy one for me and my **Mermaid Gal** with *Halloween*, the *Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl* and the *Friends of Padre Island Fall Fiesta*... oh and did I mention the **Shinyribs** explosion at the *Sip Yard* on *Halloween*? I can't bellow enough good things about Shinyribs aka **Kevin Russell**... he is bonafied daddy. I splurged and got a table up front and center and gathered up **Dale & Jan** and **Susan & Gentry** and my Mermaid Gal of course and we certainly did have us a time oh brother. Being that it was *Halloween*, the band looked like they were straight out of a **Village People** promo shot. A freshly shaven Kevin came as a cop, his horns section came as **Cheech and Chong**, his steel player was a properly attired **Roy Rogers** cowboy, his drummer looked like that workout coach on TV, **Richard Simmons**, and his doo wop singers were perfect... the lady singer had a really cool handlebar mustache and her partner was anybody's guess. I had never seen Kevin's face before... he's always had a beard and I didn't recognize him at first. If you haven't seen these guys, take my advice and follow them to the end of the Earth.



Shinyribs played the Sip Yard last Friday.

And then what happened...



Ronnie and his Mermaid Gal worked the Nurdle Patrol booth at the Friends of Padre Fall Fiesta last weekend. Photo by Jace Tunnell

That was on Friday and on Saturday me and my Mermaid Gal went down to the *Briscoe King Pavilion* for the *Friends of Padre Fall Fiesta* to man the *Nurdle Patrol Booth* with **Jace Tunnell** next to us with his *Beachcomber* booth. I love tagging along on these nurdle education events that my gal does. And then on Sunday, it was the third annual *Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl* hosted by *Red's Riviera* which also coincided with *Red's* boss lady **KK Knapp's**

60th birthday. There was a sea of pink plastered on 31 golf carts and two bicycles going from the IGA parking lot down to the *Sip Yard* then to the jetty, then to the *Gaff* and finally *Shorty's*. I'm talking pink flamingos of every kind everywhere you looked. The event was a benefit for our local animal shelter and they collected a trailer full of stuff. KK would like to thank everyone that donated. Man, do we live in a great place or what?

Scattered shots...



Whiskey Down will play after the ARK fundraiser at the Sip Yard this Saturday.

I guess you've figured out Shinyribs was in town last Friday/Halloween. So was our favorite country crooner, **Todd Dorn and the Sea Drifters** from San Antonio. He played *Shorty's* of course and had the gals up boot scootin' from downbeat. Todd now has a fancy management job with an oil refinery in SA and only plays *Shorty's* as a labor of love... which is usually once a month. Also last weekend Americana soloist **Dallas Moore** played the *Sip Yard* and our favorite coon asses **Boudreaux and Pousson** aka: **Boo & Poo** played the *Gaff*.

Coming this weekend...



The Drive will play Shorty's this Saturday.

For starters there's a BIG show at *Concrete Street* on Thursday the 6th with a couple of arena acts; **Stone Temple Pilots** and the **Toadies**. This is grunge at its finest. On Friday *Concrete Street* will go ska with **Yelowolf**. Also on Friday, **Boo & Poo** will be back at the *Gaff*, **8-Bit Serenade** will play the *Sip Yard* and **Darren McGill** will play *Shorty's*. Plus on Friday, a couple of old west Texas flatlanders from Lubbock, **Butch Hancock** and **Jimmy Dale Gilmore** will play the *Harbor Listening Room* in Rockport. My old pal **Joe Ely** was a big part of this *Flatlander* crew but I hear his health is giving him problems lately. I surely do wish him the best. As far as I'm concerned, Joe Ely hung the moon. BTW, those boys in Rockport do an excellent job over there with their songwriter fests and **Guy Clark** tributes. They'll have **Ray Wylie Hubbard** on Saturday and our friend **Keith Sykes** plus **Richard Leigh, Shawn Camp & Verlon Thompson** on Sunday... that's good stuff. And back here on our little sandbar, on Saturday the *Sip Yard* will host a fundraiser (*Stars Over Port A*) for the ARK aka; the *Amos Rehab Keep* on campus at the *University of Texas Marine Science Institute* at 5:30 and the great Southern rockers **Whiskey Down** will perform at 7:30. Also on Saturday, *Shorty's* will have the **Drive** and **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff*... which brings me to the upcoming events at the *Gaff*. This Saturday will be their 20th Anniversary of the *Belt Sander Races* held EVERY 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month since the *Gaff's* inception. I strongly commend **Kip Shannon** for his diligence and foresight. Great work my friend! He is the best at coming up with fun and goofy stuff to do while drinking beer. In fact, on the 15th the *Gaff* will host *Chicken Poop Bingo* and after *Thanksgiving* on the 30th they will keep the time honored *Turkey Bowl* alive for another year. And be advised, my name is on that trophy and I am very serious about the act of hurling a dead and plucked turkey down a makeshift bowling lane at high velocity. Whew! Life is good. Y'all be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Memei hurls a dead turkey down the lane at the Gaff last year.



The 20th Anniversary of the Gaff's WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES will be this Saturday the 8th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

November 6

Stone Temple Pilots,
The Toadies @
Concrete Street
All Stars w/ Reno
Perez @ Shortys
Jim Bush @ Gaff
Rodney Crowell @
Harbor Listening
Room RP
Alley Catz @
Cassidy's

Friday.

November 7

Boudreaux & Pousson
@ Gaff
8- Bit Serenade @ Sip
Yard
Darren McGill @
Shorty's
Rowdy Pearl Snaps @
VFW Port A
Butch Hancock &
Jimmy Dale Gilmore
@ Harbor Listening
Room RP
Yelowolf @ Concrete
Street
Cruise Control @
Pelican Lounge
National Nobodys @
Cassidy's
Alley Catz @
Brewster South

Saturday.

November 8

BELT SANDER
RACES 20th
ANNIVERSARY @
Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
The Drive @ Shorty's
ARK Event w/
Whiskey Down @ Sip
Yard
Flashback @ VFW
Port A
Boudreaux & Pousson
@ Bay Area Brew RP
Bayside Volunteers #
Bayside Community
Center
Little Joe y La
Familia, Jay Perez @
Concrete Street
Heavy Soul @ Pelican
Lounge
Rip Tide Cowboy @
Mikel Mays too
Ray Wylie Hubbard
@ Harbor Listening
Room RP
Alley Catz @ Gallery
41

GOLF CARTS FOR RENT

Treasure Island

LIVE MUSIC

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY

KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 1:30 AM

8-BIT SERENADE NOV 7
ARK EVENT w/WHISKEY DOWN NOV 8
OFF THE RAILZ NOV 14
THOMAS BAVIAK NOV 15
CHAINLINKS NOV 21
CRUISE CONTROL NOV 22

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

JIM BUSH NOV 6
BOUDREAUX & POUSSEON NOV 7
20TH ANNIV OF BELT SANDER RACES NOV 8
CHICKEN POOP BINGO NOV 15
TURKEY BOWL NOV 30

SHORTY'S

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

DARREN MCGILL NOV 7
THE DRIVE NOV 8
BRAD ETHRIDGE NOV 14
RED FEATHER NOV 15
JERRY WARD NOV 28

Sunday.

November 9

ROCKPORT
SONGWRITER
FEST: Keith Sykes,
Richard Leigh, Shawn
Camp
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz
@ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Hambone Blues Jam
@ Rialto AP

Monday.

November 10

Darren McGill @
Pelican Lounge

Tuesday.

November 11

Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Port A
Carl Hayes Open Mic
@ Salty Dolphin
Rich Lockhart @
Packery Bar
Los Locals @ Palm
Republic
Harmonx @ Aloft
Hotel

Wednesday.

November 12

Open Mic w/ Brad
Ethridge @ Gaff
Rock Hard Comedy @
House of Rock
US- Penny & Joe @
Pelican Lounge

Thursday.

November 13

All Stars @ Shortys
Tyler Jordan @ Gaff

Friday.

November 14

Off the Railz @ Sip
Yard
Brad Ethridge @
Shorty's
Robert McCoy @ Gaff
Garry Mitcham @
VFW Port A
National Nobodys @
Pelican Lounge
Alley Catz @ Nucky's
The Groove @ Fifth &
Elm Portland

Saturday.

November 15

CHICKEN POOP
BINGO @ Gaff
Red Feather @
Shorty's

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!

FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!

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BELT SANDER RACES
EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY

COLD BEER

THE GAFF

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM

LIVE MUSIC

HOT PIZZA

