



Backwater Adventures B1



Stuff I Heard A4



Three Chords and the Truth B8



On the Rocks B1



Port A Cookbook A2

Issue 1134

The

27° 37' 0.5952" N / 97° 13' 21.4068" W

Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 8, 2026

www.islandmoon.com

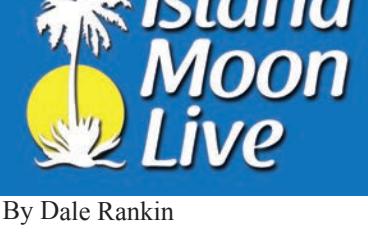
Full Color Version Available Online!

Weekly
FREE

Photo by Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



**DON'T FORGET ISLAND
MOON RADIO ON
THURSDAY'S FROM 7-9
ON 105.9 AND 103.3
GET THE
RETRO RADIICC APP,
OR WATCH US ON
YOUTUBE AT**



By Dale Rankin

You know the Winter Texan Season has arrived *Around The Island* when you see the arrival of the Bollard Buddies up Port A way. What started out as a whimsical act of a few people just for fun has turned into an annual rite of passage that is still whimsical and even more fun. It's an Island thing.

Barefoot Mardi Gras

We've had several inquiries this week about the date for this year's Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade and the route. The date is Saturday, February 28, and the route is mostly the same as last year except it will begin further south at Briscoe King Pavilion and travel north in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall where a live band will play. The event will also be live streamed for the first time this year on the *Island Moon Live* YouTube channel to let folks OTB see what we are up to *Around The Island*. We will have more details on events as things get closer.

Time to register

Election Season 2026 is in full swing as evidenced by the campaign signs that have been springing up *Around The Island* this week. February 2 is the last day to register to vote in the March 3 Primary and the first day of Early Voting is February 17. Padre Island now has 8649 registered voters and if no candidate receives a majority of the vote in the primary, the top two vote-getters will compete in a runoff on May 26 and with ten candidates running for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Congressional set in the newly-redrawn District 37 it seems almost certain there will be a runoff in that race and if so, the Island vote will be crucial.

In the last round of runoff elections in December 2024 only 28,245 votes were cast across Corpus Christi and 2491 of them were on Padre Island. If that number of voters – a 28% turnout which was exactly twice the 14% turnout across the entire city – votes in a party runoff it will

Around cont. on A4

Beach Parking Permit price increase decision headed to voters

From \$12 to \$20 in 2027

By Dale Rankin

A move to increase the price of Beach Parking Permits on Padre and Mustang islands is headed to voters by three decision-making bodies by the end of February, 2026. The \$12 price of the permits has not been changed since 2002 with the revenue from permits sales split between the cities of Corpus Christi and Port Aransas and Nueces County based on the linear feet of beach maintained by each.



Beach Parking Permits are sold at most Island Retailers

Photo from visitcorpuschristi.com

That system means that the City of Port Aransas which annually sells the most permits would see its revenue increased under the new proposed system under which each entity would keep the revenue from their sales with Nueces County receiving 8% of gross sales from each of the two cities.

City staff told the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) this week that the increase in revenue is needed to fund erosion control

Permits cont. on page A4

By the numbers

How do our city property tax rates compare to other parts of Texas?

When it comes to property taxes the question of where Corpus Christi falls in the array of various cities around Texas? The Texas Comptroller's Office answered that question this week when it issued a comprehensive list of the total tax rate for property owners in each of the Texas cities, counties, school districts, and all taxing entities across the state. The numbers shown here indicate the amount of property tax paid for each \$100 in value of appraised property. Exemptions may apply, but these numbers reflect the amount of property tax levied by each of the governing bodies on each \$100 of valuation. To calculate property tax dollars levied divide appraised property value by 100 and multiply by the numbers shown here. We will feature more information on property tax levies by various agencies in the next few issues.

We will start with a comparison by city with Coastal Bend area cities highlighted.

Taxes cont. on page A4

Bollard Buddies return



The team responsible for the Bollard Buddies Installation. Story and more Images on page B4 of this issue

Beachcombing Report: Coquina Clams are beach treasures

By Jace Tunnell

If you've walked the shoreline this week, you may have noticed something unusual happening at your feet, a patch of sand that seemed to tremble, shimmer, or even "come alive." That moving ground wasn't your imagination. It was thousands of coquina clams, tiny jewel-colored bivalves that blanket sections of the Texas coast this time of year.

Beachcombing cont. on page A5



Jace Tunnell holding a handful of coquina clams

A little Island history

The U.S. war with Mexico was launched on San Jose Island in 1845

Editor's note: In early 1845 then Lieutenant and future General George G. Meade conducted a survey of South Texas in anticipation of a possible war with Mexico over the land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande. The need for the survey proved prophetic as sure enough United States troops came to The Island and marched south into Mexico.

By Dale Rankin
On the morning of July 26, 1845 the USS Alabama steamed to the

History cont. on A7



Zachary Taylor Oak Tree in Rockport.

PIPOA
Election to be conducted online
February 15 deadline to file for seats

By Dale Rankin
Owners of the 4988 properties in the Padre Isles Property Owners Association will have the opportunity to vote on four of seven seats on the Board of Directors over the next two months with the winners to be announced at the annual owners meeting on March 28. The four seats on the ballot are for John Pasch VP, Terry Brown Treasurer, Bill Davenport Member, and one empty seat previously not filled.

Three seats will not be up for election and are currently held by George Reed, Natasha Muse, and Drew Diggins which each have one year remaining on their three-year terms.

PIPOA Executive Director Rick McGinley said this week that vote will be conducted through the organization's website Manage-CASA.

POA cont. on A3

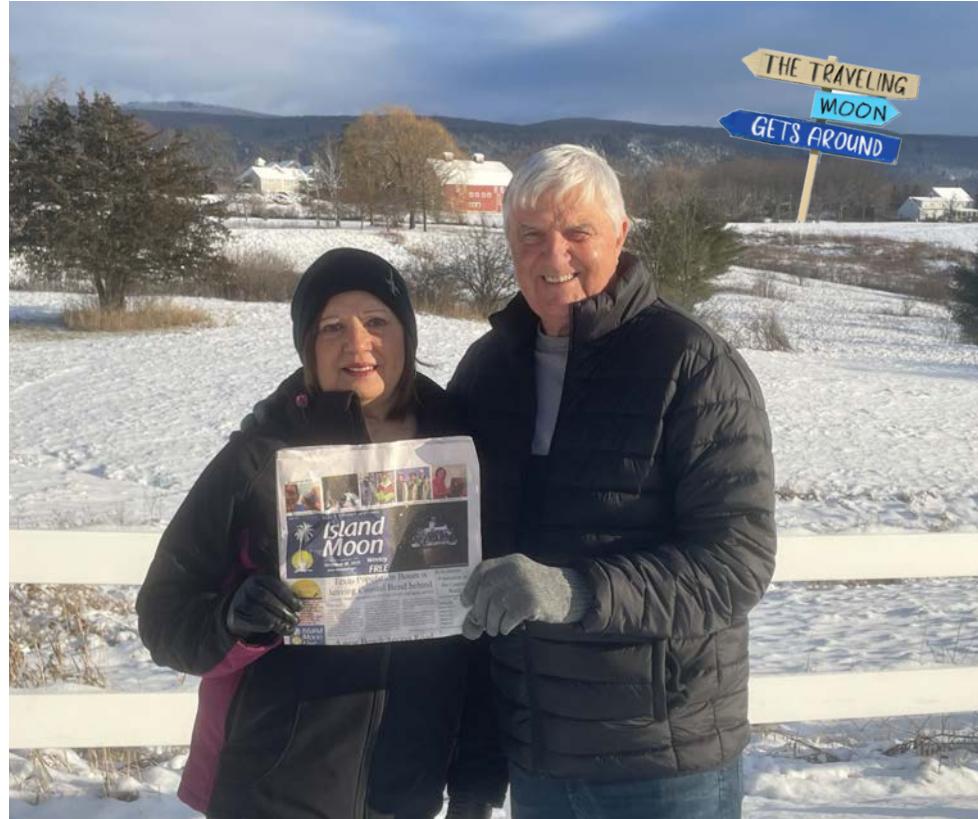


The Island Moon, in Puerto Rico! We had such fun taking this on Christmas Day just before our party boat adventure! Islanders Amy, Zoe, Abbe and Raul Guerra

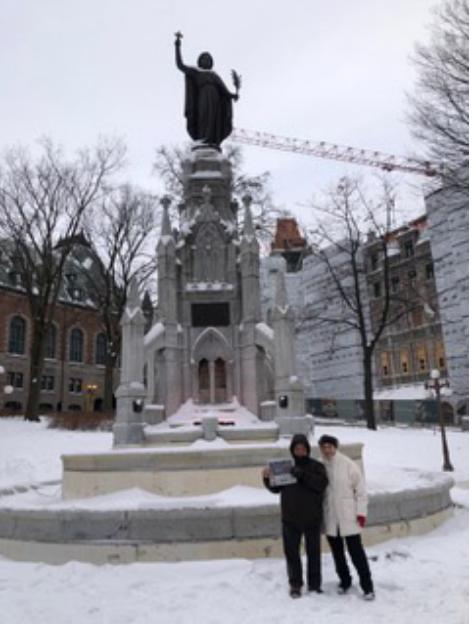


Common gallinules have exceptionally long, slender toes (without webbing) that allow them to walk on soft mud and floating vegetation like lily pads.

By Riekie Roncinske



The Moon went to Middlebury, Vermont for Christmas



Hotel Chateau La Frontenac in Quebec City at the Christmas Markets with John and Lorraine Luna in December with The Island Moon. They are La Casa del Sol condo owners since 1986 and look forward to warmth at the beach soon with their son Brad and his family who live on the Island.

Buenas Noches Cockroaches!

Pest Patrol

Locally owned and operated



(361) 852-4002

www.pestpatrolcc.com

SCAN TO DONATE!



— MICHAEL — HALL



for Nueces County Commissioner - Precinct 4

★ Professional Engineer
★ Local Island Resident
★ Fiscally Conservative

VOTE!

Early Voting: February 17th - 27th
Election Day: Tuesday, March 3rd



Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



Editor/Publisher

Dale Rankin

Co-Publisher, Business Ops

Jan Park Rankin

Design and Production

Jacob Augs

Business and Feature Writers

Joey Farah

Emily Gaines

Jay Gardner

Todd Hunter

Dotson Lewis

Dr. Mario Martinez

Melissa Mitchell

Ronnie Narmour

Dr. Ed Proffitt

Reverend Dr. Ken Ritchie

Gene Saegert

Celeste Silling

Jace Tunnell

Photographers

Miles Merwin (Emeritus)

Debbie Noble

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon

*The Island Moon is published every Thursday, Dale Rankin, Editor / Publisher.**Total circulation is 10,000 copies. Free distribution of 6,000 copies in over 50 Padre Island businesses and condos, as well as 600 copies distributed in Flour Bluff, 1,400 copies on Mustang Island and Port Aransas businesses.**News articles, photos, display ads, classified ads, payments, etc. may be left at the Moon Office.*

The Island Moon Newspaper

14646 Compass, Suite 4

Corpus Christi, TX 78418

361-949-7700

editor@islandmoon.com

Facebook: The Island Moon
Newspaper

Where to Find The Island Moon

Port Aransas North Padre

Pioneer RV

All Stripes Stores

Stripes on 1A

Black Sheep/

Kody's

Barrel

Coffee Waves

CVS

Moby Dicks

Dollar General

IGA

Doc's Restaurant

Treasure Island

Hometown

San Juan's Restaurant

Seafood

Wash Tub

Snoopy's Pier

Shorty's Place

Isle Mail N More

Gratitude

Island Italian

The Gaff

Ace Hardware

Red's Riviera

Texas Star (Shell)

Sounds Good BBQ

Spanky's

Spanky's Liquor

Subway

Beach Lodge

Island Tire

Ellis Memorial

Padre Pizzeria

Library

And all Moon

Bernie's Beach House

retail advertisers

WB Liquor

Flour Bluff

Island IGA

H.E.B.

Island Fitness

Ethyl Everly

Ridleys

Senior Center

My Coastal Home

SNAPPER TRIPS FROM NORTH PADRE!
\$140
361-742-3195
BuccaneerCruises.com



Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



How did we get here and where are we going?

Once upon a time and quite a few years ago and after the atomic bomb and atomic energy was created and after WWII, scientists stated that the earth, all the planets in the universe and everything there is in outer space could have happened without the help of anything or anybody else. I don't recall the facts, figures or theories they stated as the reason why, but whatever they were is so awesome that it is literally mind boggling.

They also stated that everything there is in space might have come from something so small that it can't be seen, which also blows your mind. I haven't heard of any new updates of their findings since the original statements and wonder if the new telescopes or astronauts in space have caused new statements to be made. Therefore I am wondering if there is any fishermen or rocket scientists in the Bluff or Padre Island that have an update?

I believe that earth will be the seed that populates other planets and since the earth and the universe is many millions of years old, time will be irrelevant as to when the seed will be planted, which might be toward the end of life on earth as everything on earth is used up and a desperate united effort is made to find another nesting site. It might be so far into the future that most people on earth will become one race and the earth will be one nation with and the earth will be a nations with governors instead of presidents for each nation.

Let it be, let it be, let it be, there can be an answer...the song by the Beatles.

Bobbie Kimbrell

Editor's note: Well Bobbie, we didn't find anyone here on The Island nor in the The Bluff with an answer so we reached all the way out to the state capital and the University of Texas for information on the James Webb Space Telescope which as we speak is now orbiting the Sun about one million miles away from earth pointing its infrared cameras outward to try and address some of the points you raise. Conventional wisdom, and (beginning) college astronomy classes that we had to drop when math was introduced into the equation, taught us that the universe began as a speck of stardust that compacted and resulted in a Big Bang 13.7 million years ago and created the universe as we know it and led to a successful television sitcom.

This all happened within just the first second after the universe began, when the temperature of everything was still insanely hot, at about 10 billion degrees Fahrenheit, according to NASA and the University of Texas and at that point the cosmos contained a vast array of fundamental particles such as neutrons, electrons and protons which provided the raw materials that would become the building blocks for everything that exists today – including but not limited to Mad Magazine. And, we would point out, fits within the framework of the Genesis explanation that the universe was created within the six-day window found there.

Early on, about 380,000 years after the Big Bang, the cosmic dust settled and the free electrons met up with nuclei, presumably in a bar like the one in Star Wars, and created neutral atoms with equal positive and negative electric charges and the next thing you know we could see through the cosmic soup and start to look around and see what was out there. This led to the launching of the Hubble Telescope which found the Pillars of Creation about 7000 light years from earth but there was still of lot of cosmic debris that the Hubble couldn't see through.

This led to the launching of the Webb telescope on December 25, 2021 by government employees working on Christmas which as a natural phenomenon fell in line with the discovery of the Pillars of Creation – and since then assumptions of how we got here

To the Editor:

Re: Dale Rankin's Island Seagate — An Idea without funding (Island Moon)

Mr. Rankin is right about one point: in 2025 the Padre Island Property Owners Association (PIPOA) pushed for a floodgate to reduce water flow in the adjacent canal system—meaning PIPOA's canals adjacent to the Whitecap project.

That wording matters because it came directly from LJA's 2021 Flow Study, which flagged concerns about increased flow from Packery Channel into the "adjacent canal system" via the new Don Patricio Bridge. Before the cut-through, our canals had roughly 8–10 feet of natural protection from tidal waters because there was no direct path into the system. In that environment, the old floodgate was essentially irrelevant—it wasn't needed. The cut-through changed everything. It didn't just "increase flow"—it introduced a new tidal pathway our canals were never built to absorb. And it became clear immediately that the 2021 Flow Study did not reflect real-world conditions.

Here's the foundation of PIPOA's position: The 2021 study projected that, after opening the canals, flow in the PIPOA canal system would generally be 1–2 feet per second (fps), averaging closer to 1 fps. Based in part on that engineering assessment, PIPOA signed a temporary license agreement with Diamond Beach Holdings to allow the cut-through in early 2024.

But once opened, the flow in our Cruiser Canal—the "hot zone"—was plainly faster than the study's estimates. The same study also noted that scouring and washouts begin around 1.9 fps. In other words: the engineering forecast suggested we'd operate mostly below a damage threshold, but the observed results put our infrastructure at risk.

Protecting this community is PIPOA's prime directive. When flow rates exceed what our canals and drainage infrastructure can sustain, damage follows—regardless of bulkhead age. New bulkheads are not immune to undermining from scouring.

We understand (and agree in concept) with the theory that opening the system at a second location (Commodores) could reduce overall velocities. But theory doesn't solve the bottleneck at Encantada.

At the Encantada location, the Cruiser Canal cannot tolerate sustained flows much above ~1 fps. At 1.9 fps, the canal (based on its width and average depth) presents roughly 513 cubic feet per second (cfs) of moving water. Yet the two drainage pipes at Encantada, even after dredging, can discharge only about 26 cfs. A 513 cfs problem can't be solved with 26 cfs capacity. That mismatch alone is enough to

have begun to shift as its infrared cameras have been able to see things we didn't expect to find way out there on the edge of reality as we thought it existed.

As the Webb peered further and further back in time to about 300 million years after the formation of the universe it found galaxies that were already forming showing active star formation way earlier than the Big Bang Theory could readily explain. In fact, it found some galaxies that existed when the universe was only 2% of its current age – think of a two-year old child growing a full beard now that is a mind boggler.

And that isn't all. Without getting too far out in the weeds here, as you get further out from the center of reality as we know it the galaxies and planets there should start to slow down as the momentum from the Big Bang plays out and those galaxies and planets should shift toward the blue portion of the light spectrum, however the Webb shows them having high redshifts meaning that based on our state of knowledge they are moving in the wrong direction at a much faster rate than they should be and also forming galaxies much earlier than we thought and also somehow transforming almost all of their ambient gasses into matter when we thought they would only convert a small portion into matter. So far no scientists on neither Padre Island nor The Bluff have been able to explain this, however, we did find a few fishermen who came pretty close. There is a lot to think about when the

produce the scouring, holes, and washouts we've seen.

That's why the practical remedy is not just "more time" or "more repairs." Beyond a floodgate, the system needs box culverts at Encantada—in our assessment, at least two (preferably three) 6'x6' box culverts to safely accommodate a nominal flow rate without destroying the canal banks and adjacent infrastructure.

This leads to the core fairness issue: neither a floodgate nor box culverts should rightfully be a PIPOA responsibility. The Whitecap project is not a PIPOA project, and PIPOA was never the cognizant engineering organization for it. Yet PIPOA sits at ground zero for the consequences when an engineering model misses the mark.

In the spirit of cooperation, PIPOA agreed to help fill the gap after the TIRZ committee could not fund additional studies needed to assess the path forward. We were willing to fund a floodgate-location study because the risk to our community was (and is) real.

But after reviewing proposals, it became obvious that a "location study" risked becoming a blinding flash of the obvious. There is only one location that makes practical sense for a floodgate. So we canceled the location-study approach and instead requested a budgetary design and siting estimate for the floodgate itself. We expect that document to go out for industry comments soon.

How will it be paid for? What will it cost to maintain? Those are valid questions—and they connect, at least in part, to the outcome of current litigation involving a member of our board related to "opening the canals." We cannot discuss the case publicly, but it is reasonable to anticipate that one possible outcome could include stakeholder participation in funding both the floodgate and the box culverts.

If that occurs, PIPOA would be wise to participate in a community solution that actually works—one that protects property owners without compromising our infrastructure.

We have already spent over \$2.4 million in bulkhead repairs since Tropical Storm Alberto. At that pace, it doesn't take much imagination to see that flow controls are not only necessary but may be far less expensive than attempting to armor the entire Cruiser Canal.

PIPOA isn't asking for special treatment. We're asking for responsible follow-through on a project that changed the hydraulics of our community—and for solutions grounded in what the water is actually doing, not what an outdated model predicted.

Respectfully,

Rick McGinley, Executive Director

fish aren't biting.

So as we sit here today Bobbie we are left to ponder the true nature of light – is it a plasma, is it a wave – and long for the day when fusion trashcans convert household waste into reusable ore and humans can live to 250 years old through the use of replacement parts grown from stem cells and solar panels floating in orbit can transmit electricity back to earth making terrestrial power generation obsolete, cars can drive themselves, and the Texas State Bobcats will enter the Pac 12. Yesterday's Crazy Talk is today's reality Bobbie, but one thing we know for sure, there is a fine line between fishing and just sitting there looking stupid.

Let it be indeed...

Wash Tub
Shorty's Place
Gratitude
The Gaff
Red's Riviera
Sounds Good BBQ
Spanky's Liquor
Beach Lodge
Ellis Memorial Library
Bernie's Beach House
Flour Bluff H.E.B.
Ethyl Everly Senior Center
Island IGA
Island Fitness
Ridleys
My Coastal Home

Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

As regular readers of these pages know we are supporters of various organizations that work to help our dog friends here on The Island. We do what we can, but we got a little perspective this week when we did an extensive interview with musician Joe King Carrasco on New Year's Eve for the Island Moon Live YouTube Channel. Joe and his wife Nicole have been touring the Ukraine for the past six months bringing Tex-Mex music to the warzone and raising money to rescue dogs there that have been left homeless as part of the fallout from the war there now going on four years.

As I sat and talked with them for over an hour just before Joe's New Year's Eve show at the Sip Yard in Port Aransas it sunk in that they are two people going above and beyond to do something decent in a place where very little decency survives.



Shelter Dogs

Aside from raising money to feed and shelter more than one thousand dogs in two rescue sites in Ukraine they are also raising money to drive used cars from Britain into the Ukraine to be used as ambulances to get wounded soldiers away from the front and into hospitals for treatment. So far they have delivered six vehicles to Ukraine where each vehicle is said to save forty lives by evading Russian satellite surveillance while traversing Ukraine roadways which are often covered with netting for camouflage.

Experience has taught the Ukrainians that any vehicle bearing a red cross or any markings indicating it is a medical vehicle will draw attacks either from Russian artillery or from Russian drones. As they approached the Dnipro River where one of the dog rescue facilities is located their driver instructed them to remove their seatbelts and be ready to jump from the car and his command and head for the tree line to hide from an incoming drone attack. Some of their friends who were using European-registered cell phones were hit by a drone in their vehicle's engine block but made it to cover before the second wave hit and destroyed the vehicle.

"You only use burner phones over there," Joe said. "If Russian satellites see several foreign-registered phones together they will send in drones." Just being identified as a "foreigner" is enough to draw down fire.

Joe has been making music in Austin and Europe since the 1970s and it was his connection to London-based *Stiff Records* that eventually led him to Ukraine. *Stiff* signed many of the New Wave acts like Nick Lowe, Elvis Costello and even Motorhead and Joe's Nuevo Wavo style fit right in. It was through them and a band called Harwood Circus that led him to Poland and eventually Ukraine. He first toured Ukraine playing bass with them before forming his own band of European and Ukrainian members and making four tours of the country over the past six months. He said they play small clubs in basements and other underground spots and find that while the war goes on so does the music.

"They need an escape even if it is just for a couple of hours," Joe said. "We play to

largely female audiences since most of the males over 24 years old are in service. Many people in our audience have lost limbs and are in rehab in the places where we play."

As they tour they use money raised in Europe and the United States to buy dog food when they return to Ukraine to feed the dogs in the shelters.

"People forget about the dogs that are displaced by the war," Nicole said. "They roam the streets and we try to feed as many as we can."

They bring the dogs into shelters and when the shelters get full they release them in the cities where they form packs but return to the shelters where they know they can get food. As they told me that it made my meager efforts here in peaceful South Texas pale in comparison to the work they are doing on the other side of the world.

Joe said in much of Ukraine life goes on in spite of the war. Restaurants are open even in the cities where regular bombing is done, and hotels are equipped with shelters. If you listen to the interview on Island Moon Live you will hear the air raid notice that goes out via a phone app when danger is imminent. It is a chilling reminder of what is going on there.

If you would like to help them in their cause go to missionaidforukraine.co.uk and donate. Or, if you are on the more the adventurous side, raise the money to purchase a car and drive it to Ukraine!

If you do that be sure to take along an Island Moon.



Joe, Nicole, and friends



Taxes cont. from A1

0.898434 Taft	0.599774 Corpus Christi
0.8629 Tyler	0.59542 Denton
0.787352 Sinton	0.578846 Castle Hills (Bexar County)
0.7947 San Angelo	0.574017 Austin
0.76918 Kingsville	0.5619 Longview
0.759649 El Paso	0.541 San Antonio
0.741129 Ingleside	0.51919 Houston
0.755 Waco	0.5135 Seguin
0.7542 Abilene	0.50609 Laredo
0.718946 Portland	0.5 Aqua Dulce
0.6999 Temple	0.4716 Boerne
0.6988 Dallas	0.4307 Amarillo
0.68225 Beeville	0.408687 Galveston
0.67 Fort Worth	0.370147 Alamo Heights
0.659663 Beaumont	0.357994 Terrell Hills (Bexar County)
0.6515 San Marcos	.0201612 Port Aransas
0.615706 Alice	0.19075 Ingleside on the Bay
0.603504 Brownsville	

By Dale Rankin

Permits cont. from A1

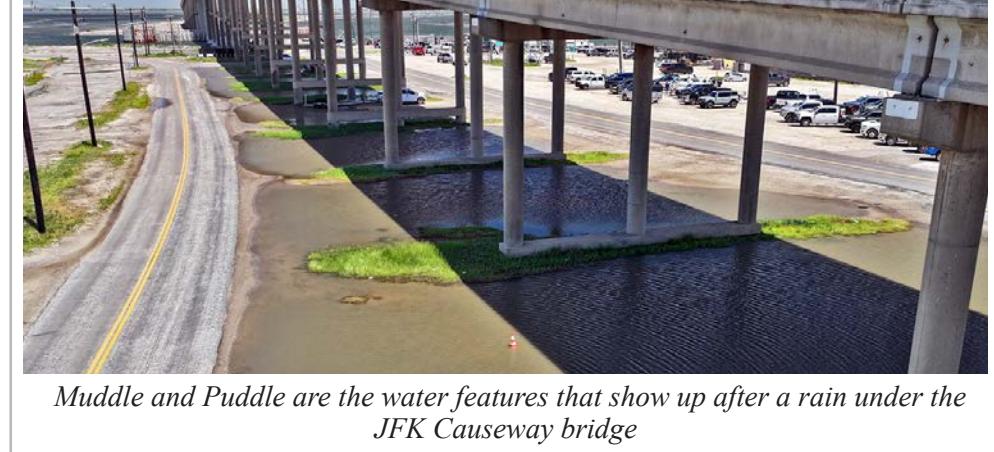
projects up and down the beaches from Port Aransas to the Kleberg County after studies from the Texas General Land Office found that continued erosion is making beach access difficult in several areas.

The Port Aransas City Council is set to consider the permit price increase by the end of January, followed by the Nueces County Commissioners Court, then finally the Corpus Christi City Council by the end of February. City staff told ISAC members if approved by all three bodies the price hike would go into effect in January 2027 when new permits are issued.



Around cont. from A1

be about 10% of the total vote, enough to decide who wins. Texas is an open-primary state where we don't register by party and anyone can vote in either primary. The only real restriction is that if you vote in one party primary you can't switch and vote in a runoff for the other party. The Island vote has always been decisive due to our high turnout, but the decision on who will represent us in Washington come January, 2027 can be decided by our vote over the next two months. See the list of candidates in this issue. As always, all of the seats on the Corpus Christi City Council will also be on the November, 2026 ballot but the filing window for those two-year terms does not open until July.



Muddle and Puddle are the water features that show up after a rain under the JFK Causeway bridge



Instant Debit Cards

Smart ATMs with Teller Access

24/7 Online Account Access

Mobile App Banking

Mobile Deposit Banking

Online Bill Pay

1st
Community Bank
MEMBER FDIC

361-949-9310 | 14254 South Padre Island Drive



Switch to First Community Bank at fcbot.com/switch

Nature Notes

Is that a Crow? They are not all alike

By Martin Hagne



An American Crow by Mike Williams

All black, often noisy, and gregarious, all those blackbirds. Some seem smaller, some more brownish, and some are rather large. To most folks, that may be all we notice about them. But there is a world of difference and neat behavior that we can learn about these birds. For one, there are many species from two very distinct groups of birds that make up the blackbird groups.

The largest belong to the corvid group which includes jays, crows, and ravens. The American Crow is the most common corvid along the immediate Upper Texas Coast. The bully of the bird world, as some say, they are big, and often noisy. However, they are arguably one of the smartest birds we have around. American Crows inhabit many of our habitats, including our more suburban areas. They live near the coast in tree lines near the coastal marshland, in the bottomland hardware forests, open farmland, as well as our backyards, but seldom visits the beach fronts. They can make a living in almost any situation. They scavenge and steal, as well as forage for their food. Their diet is made up of a myriad of foods, including earthworms, insects, other small animals, seed, fruit, but also garbage, carrion, and chicks they rob from nests. They are masters at survival.

The American Crows are very social birds and can form large flocks sometimes in the thousands, but we don't see that here as much. They are also very inquisitive, somewhat mischievous, and very quick learners that can solve problems. They defend what's theirs aggressively, and don't fear chasing away larger birds including birds of prey such as hawks and owls.

Then there are the black birds that belong to the icerid group. This is a rather diverse group of birds, including blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, bobolinks, meadowlarks, and even the colorful orioles. Since we are talking black birds here, we will leave the orioles and meadowlarks out. The most noticeable of these are the Great-tailed Grackles. They are not as large as crows but

often mistaken for them. The males are a dark shiny black, often with blue and green sheen to their feathers. Females have more subdued blacks and browns. Their cousins, the Boat-tailed Grackles are very similar but sound a bit different and have dark eyes instead of yellow. Boat-tails are normally only found along the immediate coast and marshes, and not very far inland. Great-tailed can be found everywhere. The Common Grackle is their smaller cousin, which only resides here during the winter months, often in very large noisy flocks. They look similar but about two thirds their size.

To round out this group are the smallest of this bunch. The most common are the Red-winged Blackbirds with their bright red patch on their upper wing, the aptly named Brown-headed Cowbird with their dull brown heads, and the less common Bronzed Cowbird with their hunchbacked appearance and bright red eyes.

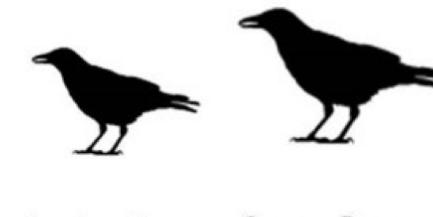
The two cowbird species are considered parasites as they use other bird nests to lay their eggs in, and often let those other birds raise their young. This was not a problem in the past when they naturally followed the roaming buffalo herds, but as buffalo were replaced with stationary cows, cowbirds no longer roam vast areas, and now affect the same birds over and over. This has led to a reduction in songbird populations, and in some areas cowbirds are being manually controlled to save rare or endangered species.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds, have, yes, yellow heads. The females are browner with yellow throats. This species is rare here, and only show up at times in migration or in winter flocks of other black birds.

No matter what people feel about this group of birds, the fact remains that they are smart, resourceful, and highly entertaining. I do love watching them out the window from my office here at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory! Happy New Year!



Brown-headed Cowbird European Starling Common Grackle
Length: 7.5" Length: 8.5" Length: 12"



American Crow Common Raven
Length: 17.5" Length: 25"

PADRE DERMATOLOGY & Skin Cancer Center

Accepts Medicare United, Humana, BCBS, WellMed
Reasonable Cash Pay and Out of Network rates



Island Owned and operated
Physician staffed office
Fellowship trained Mohs surgeon
Double Board Certified
in Dermatology and
Mohs Micrographic Surgery

14650 Compass St Ste 1
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
361-867-1032
www.padrederm.com

New and Existing patients call to schedule
Existing patients, we still have all old records available.

Beachcombing cont. from A1

Coquina clams, known scientifically as *Donax variabilis*, are small, usually no bigger than a fingernail, but when they arrive in numbers, they create one of the most mesmerizing spectacles on the beach. As the outgoing waves pulled away, the sand in front of me suddenly revealed a dense carpet of clams. Before the next wave could roll in, each clam began to wiggle and shake, using its muscular foot to dig rapidly back beneath the surface. Within seconds, the whole patch disappeared, only to be uncovered again by the following wave. Standing there felt like watching the beach breathe.

These clams are masters of life in the swash zone, the constantly shifting area where water meets sand. They move with the tides, burying deep enough to avoid predators while positioning themselves to filter-feed on microscopic plankton stirred up by the waves. Their shells come in extraordinary colors such as pinks, yellows, blues, and purples, making the beach look sprinkled with sea glass when empty shells accumu-

late along the tideline.

Coquina clams have also played a small but memorable role in coastal cuisine. Historically, people gathered them in large quantities to make coquina broth or seafood stew. Because the clams are tiny, they weren't eaten individually; instead, they were boiled whole, and the flavorful stock, similar to a mild clam broth, became the base for soups. While not commonly eaten today, the tradition adds another layer to their story along the Gulf.

The next time the tide pulls back, take a closer look, you might just see the beach start to move. 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).



Live Coquina clams in the swash zone

POA cont. from A1

"We've posted instructions on our website and through ManageCASA on the voting plan and how to get a ballot worksheet. It can be downloaded from our website (it has not been posted yet for obvious reasons)," McGinley said. "When the ballot worksheet is finished we will send it out via ManageCASA and USPS to those without an email in ManageCASA. But the direct way to get it is from our website. When it is filled out completely the instructions say to mail it to the POA office by the date on the form I want you to run. Members may also hand deliver their form to the POA office. The POA staff will not accept worksheets brought in by a third party."

Paper ballots will be sent only to members for which the PIPOA does not have an email address. A total of 489.8 ballots must

be cast by members in order to reach the required quorum and make the election official. McGinley said if no quorum is reached "the bylaws give us license to leave the existing board members in place until their replacements have been duly elected."

The vote to fill two empty seats in 2025 failed to produce the required number of votes to reach a quorum as required by its bylaws. Elections for the three year terms are held each March for staggered terms and the 2025 election marked the first to use the online ManageCASA system for casting ballots. A total of 424 votes were cast, 78 votes short of the 502 required to reach ten percent of the 5020 members. For more details see the item in this issue of the Island Moon on page B6.

By the numbers...

Beach Parking Permit Sales and Revenue

Editor's note: The following numbers reflect actual sales of Beach Parking Permits for the year 2024 and projected sales revenue if the cost of the permits is raised from the current \$12 per year to \$20 per year. They come from the City of Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Department.

2004 sales

273,228 Total number of permits sold

\$3,118,299.50 Total Revenue

1768 Nueces County

Revenue received by each entity

\$1,418,823 (45.5%) City of Corpus Christi

\$1,200,545 (38.5%) City of Port Aransas

\$498,927 (16%) Nueces County:

Revenue if the price is raised from \$12 per year to \$20 per year

\$5,464,560 total revenue

\$2,360,420 City of Corpus Christi

\$3,068,780 City of Port Aransas

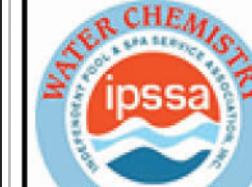
\$874,329 Nueces County

Number of permits sold by each entity

118,021 City of Corpus Christi

153,439 City of Port Aransas

Since 1991



www.atlantiscorpus.com

Atlantis

Pool and Spa

Quality you can swim in!

(361) 563-7665 or (361) 949-8899

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Weekly Pool & Spa Maintenance * Repairs & Renovations

Island Resident

Shouldn't you be saying, "It's time to relax. My pool is ready!"

Call Atlantis For All Your Pool Needs

NPC
NATIONAL PLASTERERS COUNCIL

The Art of Island Life

The Joy of Rotating Your Art Collection

By Melissa Mitchell

Putting away holiday décor often means pulling out other pieces that I haven't used in a while—and it always reminds me how much joy there is in rediscovery.

Do you have art you're beginning to tire of? Before you think about parting with it, try this first—move it. Shift it to another wall, another room, another light.

One of the best-kept secrets of art lovers is this: we rotate our collections the way other people rotate their wardrobes. A thoughtfully chosen original piece has a way of growing with us—adapting to new rooms, new light, and new chapters without losing what made it special in the first place.

I also love what pairing pieces with history alongside things that feel more current can do to a room—old books from the early 1900s beneath updated mirrors, timeworn objects mixed with cleaner lines. That contrast brings warmth and depth; the layering of old and new is what gives a room its soul.

A Simple Shift, A Fresh Perspective

We get so used to seeing the same things in the same places that we stop really noticing them. It's like that mirror you walk past every day—after a while, it disappears into the background. Art can do that too.

And don't forget about what's tucked away in closets or guest rooms. Pull out those "resting" pieces and give them another moment in the spotlight. What once felt outdated may suddenly feel just right.

Moving a piece changes the story. The light hits it differently. The colors play off new surroundings. A bold abstract that once felt overpowering in the living room might bring just the right energy to a hallway. A softer painting may glow beautifully in the morning light of your kitchen.

It's not always about owning more—it's about playing with what you've got. Sometimes a piece doesn't need replacing at all; it just needs to be rediscovered.

Here on the Texas coast, where our "seasons" are more about sandals and sunshine than snow and heavy boots, rotating art brings a gentle sense of change. While our palms stay green and the waves keep rolling, we can still celebrate subtle shifts through color, texture, and mood. This small ritual of refreshing your space creates a rhythm we might otherwise miss—one that helps our homes feel intentional and alive.

Accessorize Your Walls

Think of art the same way you think of fashion—it's all about styling. Try layering smaller pieces on a shelf with vases or books. Add a sculptural frame to elevate a simple print. Mix materials—canvas beside metal, photography next to wood panels. It's the same warmth you feel when a cozy throw softens a smooth couch—the contrast that makes a space feel inviting.

Just like the right jewelry can make a favorite dress feel brand new, a new frame or placement can completely transform a piece of art. Pairing it with something unexpected



Same Piece - Different Story



Moving Forward



Moving Forward



Moving Forward

may be all it needs to sparkle again.

Welcoming Back Old Friends

Every time you bring a piece out of rest, it feels like welcoming home an old friend. You remember what drew you to it—the color, the emotion, the story behind it.

I have many paintings that have followed me from one home to another, shifting walls and meaning along the way. In my previous home, one piece by Stephane Fontaine hung above my fireplace, full of calm energy. Now it lives near my entry, where it welcomes everyone who walks through the door. Even the orientation changed—from horizontal to vertical—giving the piece an entirely new presence.

Same piece—different story.

I have another piece of art my grandparents gave my parents in 1970 to celebrate their anniversary. For years, it rested on a shelf, displayed on an easel—seen, but quietly tucked away. Recently, I moved it to the wall.

Nothing about the piece changed, but the way I experienced it did. Hung at eye level, it feels present again—no longer just remembered, but lived with.

That's the magic of rotating your art collection. It's not about constant change—it's about rediscovering the beauty that's already there. A hint of color emerges, a small detail comes forward—something you hadn't noticed before.

So before you decide to retire a piece or replace it altogether, try giving it a new view. Move it. Reframe it. Pair it with something unexpected. You might just fall in love with it all over again.

Because art isn't meant to be static—it's meant to move with us, to grow with us, and to remind us that sometimes, a fresh perspective is the best kind of masterpiece.

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and coastal inspiration. Have a story you'd like to share? I'd love to hear from you at contact@melissamitchellart.com.

Evoke Studio & Gifts
The Art of Island Life
14646 Compass Street, Ste 10



Moving Forward

Texas and Cancer treatment

With over \$4.5 billion going to be invested in cancer research in the United States during 2026, the non-profit organization SmileHub this week released new reports on the Best Charities for Research and the Best States for Cancer Research in 2026.

To highlight the best states for cancer research and those that have room to improve, SmileHub compared each of the 50 states based on 13 key metrics. The data set ranges from the number of research charities per capita to the cancer mortality rate to the quality of cancer treatment hospitals.

Cancer Research in Texas (1=Best, 25=Avg.):

- Overall Rank: 22nd
- 9th – Research Charities per Capita
- 3rd – Research Universities per Capita
- 17th – National Institutes of Health Grant Funding
- 44th – Clinical Trials per Capita
- 11th – Cancer Incidence Rate
- 19th – Cancer Mortality Rate

Brewster Street on the Island

Advertisorial



On a mild South Texas afternoon, the clink of plates and low, unhurried conversation at Brewster Street Icehouse feels familiar. At its newest location, there's also the quiet sense of something settling in; a place finding its footing without needing to announce itself. Just before the entrance onto Whitecap Beach, at 15241 Leeward Dr, Brewster Street Icehouse On the Island sits comfortably along the road, marking the transition from mainland routine to island time. Opened in the summer of 2025, this latest location already feels like it belongs.

There's an ease to the space that longtime locals will recognize right away. Nothing feels rushed or overly styled. Coastal casual in both feel and function, it's a place where flip-flops, work boots, sun-faded ball caps, and pressed collared shirts all fit without a second thought. On weekends, families and friends gather over waterfront views while live music drifts in the background. It's not trying to be a scene; it's simply there, welcoming and steady, offering room to settle in and stay awhile.

Lunch is where Brewster Street's rhythm is most apparent. The \$10.99 Blue Plate special remains a cornerstone, just as it has at other locations across Corpus Christi. It's straightforward, dependable, and familiar in the best way. Plates arrive warm and generous, favoring comfort and solid portions over trends or embellishment. This is food that knows its role: it fills you up, tastes good, and sends you back into your day feeling taken care of.

The appeal of the Blue Plate is its simplicity. There's no need to explain it or dress it up. It's approachable, reliable, and priced with regulars in mind. On Padre Island, where days often start early and stretch long, whether spent fishing, working, or simply enjoying the weather, that kind of lunch fits naturally into the rhythm of life.

That same sense of thoughtfulness extends to the changing mix of people who call the Island home throughout the year. As cooler months arrive, seasonal residents—often referred to as Winter Texans—become part of the community. Brewster Street acknowledges them in a quiet, respectful way, offering 15% off one entrée to guests with an out-of-state ID. It's not a flashy promotion, just a simple welcome that reflects the restaurant's long-standing approach to hospitality.



GALE LAW GROUP

PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ATTORNEYS/MEDIATORS

14633 S. Padre Island Dr.

361.808.4444

Office@GaleLawGroup.com

G | L | G



March 3 Primary Elections

Who is running?

With the March 3 Party Primary Elections just over two months away the filing deadlines for party races has passed.

Padre Island will no longer be in the congressional district of Rep. Michael Cloud after the November General Election but will instead be part of a newly redrawn District 37 which stretches south toward the Rio Grande Valley. The race for the seat is expected to be hotly contested as one of five districts redrawn by the state legislature designed to flip from the current Democrat seat holder to a Republican one. The cost of the race, especially the General Election in

November is expected to rise as high as \$50 million. The vote on Padre Island and in Flour Bluff will play a key, even deciding, role in the race.

The filing deadline for all eight seats on the Corpus Christi City Council as well as the Mayor begins in July, 2026 for the November 3 elections. The following is an abbreviated list of candidates who have filed for each of March 3 Party Primary Elections whose names will appear on ballots on Padre Island. Some uncontested statewide races have been omitted for the sake of brevity.

Single-lane closures Park Road 22 Pavement work on Humble Channel Bridge on JFK Causeway Jan. 6-16

As part of the ongoing maintenance project on bridges on and adjacent to the JFK Causeway, the contractor has scheduled a series of single-lane closures on the Park Road 22 westbound lanes of the Humble Channel bridge from Tuesday, Jan. 6, through Jan. 16, weekends excluded, to perform pavement work.

The work schedule is:

□ Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 6, crews will mill the asphalt pavement on the bridge. Work will begin in the outside (right) westbound lane before shifting to the inside lane. All milling activities are

expected to be completed the same day. The outside lane will remain closed overnight following the milling operation.

□ From Tuesday through Friday, Jan. 7-9, the outside lane will remain closed for paving work.

□ From Jan. 12-16, the inside westbound lane will be closed for paving work.

The scheduled work will not affect any other lanes on the JFK Causeway. All work is weather permitting and lane closures are subject to change without notice.



History Cont. from A1

beach at San Jose Island. The ship, along with others brought the U.S. Army of Occupation with the Third Infantry in the van, had arrived from New Orleans in anticipation of a war with Mexico over the Nueces Strip which was between the mouth of the Nueces River and the Rio Grande River. On board were a group of officers, mostly West Pointers, who would later fill the pages of the history of the Civil War: twenty-four year-old 2nd Lt. Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, William Tecumseh Sherman, future Confederate President Jefferson Davis, future Confederate General Braxton Bragg, future U.S. General Phil Sheridan, Stonewall Jackson, future Brigadier General Joe Hooker, and the future 14th President of the United States Franklin Pierce.

Just a few weeks prior, on June 26, the Ninth Texian Congress had consented to the annexation of the Republic of Texas into the United States of America. But in the mind of the Mexican government, who still wasn't completely convinced any of Texas was not part of Mexico, the Nueces Strip, was still part of Mexico and the matter would be settled by a contest of arms.

Troops scrambled from the ship to the shore and a Lt. Chandler climbed to the highest dune on San Jose Island and planted the flag of the United States with its twenty-seven stars in the sand. Capt. W.S. Henry reported, "It floats over a rich acquisition, the most precious Uncle Sam has yet added to his crown. Former President Thomas Jefferson who sealed the Louisiana Purchase might have disagreed with that grandiose assertion, but there was little doubt among the generals or politicians that this, the fifth flag to fly over The Island after those of Spain, France, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas would be the last. Lee and Davis had no way of knowing that they as President and General of the Army of Northern Virginia, would be partially responsible for the sixth and final new flag to fly here, that of the Confederacy.

With the planting of this, the first United

States flag to be planted in the state of Texas the U.S. Mexico War had, for all intents and purposes begun.

On to Rockport

Eight companies of the Third Infantry established temporary quarters on San Jose Island with the intent of moving inland as soon as possible. They sailed along Live Oak Peninsula where they found a rocky point which protruded into the bay and Cavalry Commander Kirby Smith jumped his horse into the water from the ship's deck and swam ashore. As the men landed they saw a large oak tree about half a mile to the southeast and set up camp in its shade. The strip of land between the landing spot and the tree - later known as the Taylor Tree - is where the town of Rockport - named after the rocky point - would later grow. To this spot, and the original landing at San Jose Island, can be traced the events and decisions that would shape the American Nation through the end of the century: acquisition of the new American territory was first on the list and would lead them to the walls of Monterey and later to the walls of Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the formation of the Republican Party, the election of Abraham Lincoln, the succession of the South, and finally the Civil War in which they would play key roles.

That evening local empresario James Power and his wife Tomasa invited General Taylor and John Howland Wood to dinner. Wood saw the value of the rocky point that would allow trains to run to deep water. He later became an Aransas cattleman. That December President James Polk signed an act making Texas a state and in February, 1846 the Stars and Stripes became the official banner of the Nueces Strip. But that did not stop Texas Rangers from marching south into history with Taylor under the Lone Star banner.

And it all began on San Jose Island.

Republicans

U.S. Congress District 34

(Padre Island will no longer be in the district of current District 27 Congressman Michael Cloud)

Keith Allen
Luis Buentello
Eric Flores
Mayra Flores
Fred Hinojosa
Gregory Scott Kunkle, Jr.
Scott Mandel
Jay Nagy

Nueces County Commission Precinct 4

Brent Chesney
Michael Hall

Texas Comptroller

Michael Berlanga

Christi Craddick

Kelly Hancock

Don Huffines

County Court at Law #3

Neely Balko
Laura Ramos
(All other incumbent County Court At-Law Judges are unopposed)

94th Judicial District Judge

Chris Dorsey

Kathy Mills

148 Judicial District Judge

David Klein

David Stith

(All other incumbent District Judges are unopposed)

Governor

Greg Abbott (Incumbent)

R.F. Achigill

Evelyn Brooks

Pete "Doc" Chambers

Charles Crouch

Arturo Espinosa

Mark Goloby

Kenneth Hyde

Stephen Samuelson

Ronnie Tullos

Nathaniel Welch

U.S. Senate

John Cornyn (Incumbent)

John Adefope

Anna Bender

Virgil John Beirschwale

Sara Canady

Wesley Hunt

Gulrez "Gus" Kahn

Ken Paxton

Lt. Governor

Dan Patrick (Incumbent)

Perla Hopkins

Timothy Marby

Esala Wuechner

Attorney General

Joan Huffman

Mayes Middleton

Aaron Reitz

Chip Roy

Railroad Commissioner

Jim Wright (Incumbent)

Katherine Culbert

Hawk Dunlap

Bo French

Jams Matlock

Agricultural Commissioner

Sid Miller (Incumbent)

Nate Sheets

Precinct 81 Chair (Island)

Stephen Armstrong

Blake Rowley

Unopposed

Texas House District 32

Todd Hunter

Nueces County Judge

Connie Scott

Nueces County Clerk

Kara Sands

Nueces County District Clerk

Anne Lorentzen

Land Commissioner

Dawn Buckingham

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

Duncan Neblett

Democrats

Below is a list of candidates who have filed to run in the Democratic Party Primary and will appear on ballots on Padre Island.

U.S. House of Representatives District 34

Etienne Rosas

Vicente Gonzalez (Incumbent)

Nueces County Clerk

Jo Ann Beltran

Leanna Gutierrez-Gonzales

Nueces County Democratic Party Chair

Alejandra Rubio

Conor Rice

Aaron Ayala

United States Senate

Ahmad R. Hassan

James Talarico

Jasmin Crockett

Governor

Patricia Abrego

Chris Bell

Bobby Cole

Gina Hinojosa

Jose Navarro Balbuena

Angela "Tia Angie" Villegas

Andrew White

Lt. Governor

Courtney Head

Vikki Goodwin

Marcos Valez

Attorney General

Anthony "Tony" Box

Joe Jaworski

Nathan Johnson

Comptroller of Public Accounts

Michael Lange

Sarah Eckhardt

Unopposed

Nueces County Judge

Aidee Hernandez

State Representative District 34

Stephanie Guerrero Saenz

District Court Judges

All District Judge candidates are running unopposed

County Court At Law Judges

All County Court At Law Judges are running unopposed

Nueces District Clerk

Maria Carolina (Kina) Ventura

Railroad Commissioner

Jon Rosenthal

Commissioner of the General Land Office

Benjamin Flores

Jose Loya

Commissioner of Agriculture

Clayton Tucker

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

Place 9

Holly Taylor



Nature is beauty Photo By John Najvar



Island currency. Evelyn Pless-Schubert

One place. One weekend. All your projects solved.



— 27th Annual —
**HOME &
GARDEN
SHOW**
CORPUS CHRISTI

JAN. 23-25
Hilliard Center



FREE ADMISSION

PLUS, ENJOY FREE PARKING!

FRI 1/23 2pm-6pm **SAT** 1/24 10am-6pm **SUN** 1/25 11am-5pm

learn more at corpuschristihomeandgardenshow.com

Interested in being an exhibitor?
EMAIL sales@showtechnology.com

Island Moon Live
Our Thursday radio show is now streamed live on YouTube! We have an enormous amount of different friends and guests, telling stories about how the Island used to be, and where we are heading. All of the videos are free to watch, and can be found on YouTube at Island Moon Live, or via these links. We record the show on Thursdays live at Doc's from 7 to 9 am.



Live Streams



Special Videos



**Are You Ready
For The Next Hurricane?**

Storm?
Freeze?
Tornado?
Grid Failure?



Call Us

361-782-6329

generator  **GENERAC**

GeneratorSupercenterOfCorpusChristi.com

We Treat Your Pets LIKE FAMILY!

Keepin' Dogs on the Beach!

Island Animal Clinic

Bill McGehee, DVM & Associates

- Medicine • Surgery
- Diagnostics • Radiology
- Pharmacy • & More!

Mon-Fri by Appointment

319 Beach St.
next to The Crazy Cajun Restaurant

361-749-4134



NOW OPEN



The Grub Hound's Disciple

By Chris Jordan

To meet my pops, Ritchie Jordan, was to love him, and I mean *everybody* did. He was kind, funny, and a little bit goofy-lookin'. The man lived to cookout, did so frequently, and with no small amount of flair and fanfare.

Dad had an instinct for upcoming food trends. I first heard the word "fajitas" out of his mouth in the early 70s before the dish had become known to the masses. He had a source for beef skirt at an old market in some forgotten neighborhood in San Antonio. My father would go to great lengths to source the ingredients for his latest food obsession. He made fajitas often back then, and we didn't even live in San Antonio. Pops traveled a lot for work and was a grand champion grub hound. He knew every single barbecue joint in Texas, what each joint's style was, what sides they served, and whether the glass bottles of Big Red were cold enough.

When Dad started talking about blackened redfish, I didn't have a clue about the who or what of it, and neither did he. He prolly got turned on to it the way he did his various culinary pursuits: word-of-mouth or by gettin' around to experiencing it himself on a trip to Louisiana. And so, some summer Friday in the early 80s, Dad hollered at me to pack a bag and hop in the Suburban: it was a boys' fishing trip to Port Aransas. He had loaded up our distinctly freshwater fishing gear, and we were off to gas up the Suburban and ice down the beer and sodas. Although convenience stores were just starting to be a thing, we still got gas and ice at two different places. The Suburban had *two* 40-gallon gas tanks, so this took a while. But eventually the tanks were full, the drinks were gettin' cold, we had a proper supply of Slim Jims and Munchos, and the Hill Country was in the rearview.

I loved Port A even though I didn't care much for fishing. Still don't. But I loved my dad. Still do. The ferries only carried nine cars back then, and waiting to ride one to the island was not only graciously accepted by most, but even relished by some. Like me. I would have gladly crept along the causeway toward that ferry landing for however long it took. And it took a long time, but I didn't care because everything was so exotic: sandy flats, tidal waters, shore birds, coastal grasses, ramshackle fishing piers, boats, rusty trucks, funny smells, and not a hill in sight. And finally, all the excitement of travel to this strange place reached its pinnacle when we boarded the ferry. I got out of the Suburban, went to the front of the boat, and pushed my face into the sea spray like the itinerant figurehead of a pirate ship. Every single time.

Like we often did, we were staying at Spanish Village. Even if you don't know Spanish Village, you are familiar with its kind: a series of noncontiguous cottages plopped along a circular drive. A motor lodge, as it was called back in the day. I'm not sure why they called it Spanish Village. Maybe because the cottages were stucco over cinder blocks. It was more clear to me why the proprietor was called Old Man Pickett. The drain in the shower was quick to clog, and Old Man Pickett was there in a jiffy to fix it—though rather grumpily. The amenities were as numerous as they were extravagant. The water was from an onsite well and was delightfully briny with lovely sulfur overtones. I was always instructed to wear sandals in the shower lest I get athlete's foot.

The fishing began as soon as possible, and one had to be prepared to stay up late. We went to Horace Caldwell Pier, the jetty, and various other places along the ship channel. Dad would fish, and I would too until I got bored—which wasn't long into the marathon. Then I'd swim, talk to strangers, or poke at dead things. Dad would either catch a good eatin' fish or he'd give up and cuss. Finally that Friday night, Pops had caught a good buzz and a decent redfish. He cleaned the fish at the water's edge, and we went back to Spanish Village. I was hungry, and somehow Dad was still thirsty. Fortunately, we had a black & white TV, rabbit ears, Slim Jims, Munchos, Big Red, and Lone Star.

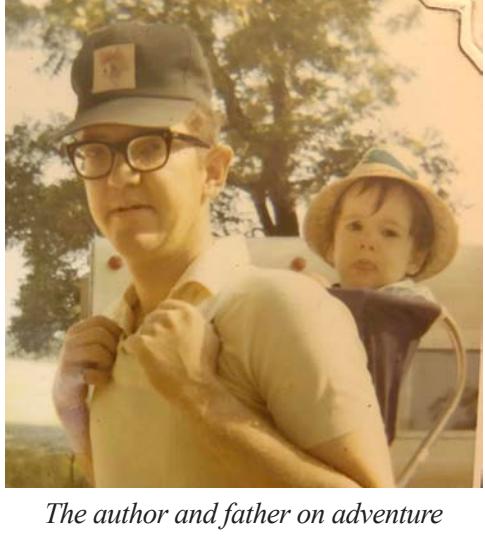
The next day, we'd get up early and walk across the street to the Super S for some

donuts from their bakery. Then we'd drive way down the beach to do some surf fishing and a little swimming. If you didn't step on a crab or get stung by jellyfish, you weren't doing it right. The pressure to fish successfully had ebbed; after all, there was a redfish in the cooler. So we'd goof around at the beach until we were sufficiently sunburnt, dehydrated, and sleepy. Then we'd head back to Spanish Village where we had never been so happy to lie in such uncomfortable beds and be lured into a deep afternoon slumber by the laborious growl of the finest window unit the 1960s ever produced. Our cabin was a concrete block sanctuary from the humidity, but as the sun kissed the bay waters, lethargy gave way to the primal necessity of dinner.

Pops had a little hibachi he carried around with him. He had fitted a steel plate over the grates so he could grill onions and peppers for his fajitas. This contraption would work great for blackened redfish, he explained. There wasn't going to be any rice. Nor vegetables. Dad got that hibachi going red-hot, and the steel plate was smoking. Do not attempt this indoors unless you have an excellent vent hood or want a meet-and-greet with the fire department. He had brought butter and melted it in a little camp pan. We slathered our redfish in the butter and then dredged the fish in paprika, thyme, oregano, cayenne, and salt.

I don't think Dad knew who had invented blackened redfish. Probably he'd never even heard of Paul Prudhomme. In fact, Chef Paul wouldn't be on television for another fifteen years. But pops had definitely heard of Justin Wilson and took great delight in doing a spot-on impression of that particular Cajun chef and humorist. The fish seared quickly as acrid smoke billowed from it. The filets were ready to flip in a blink, and then ready to be scraped off in another. More butter was poured over the top, and Pops looked at me all squint-eyed and said, "Son, dis dun gonna be duh bess fish you eva dun et, I tell you true right now! We gahn puta little some dis spice on heya, now yon brought yoself on ova here and try this now some."

We ate our blackened redfish with our fingers. Dad was committed to his Justin Wilson character, and it just got better with each Lone Star. We eventually retired to our cottage and the comfort of noisy AC and sandy sheets. Over the years, my father's blackened seasoning evolved. The recipe given here is how I make it now, I tell you true.



The author and father on adventure

Ritchie's Blackened Redfish Seasoning

- 2 tbsp sweet paprika
- 2 tbsp smoked paprika
- 2 tbsp garlic powder
- 2 tbsp onion powder
- 1 tbsp fine salt (sea or kosher)
- 1 tbsp cayenne
- 1 tbsp rubbed sage
- 1 tbsp ground coriander
- 1 tbsp ground cardamom
- 1 tbsp dried thyme
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 1 tbsp dried parsley
- Redfish filets
- Salted butter

Preparation: Combine all dry ingredients in a food processor and pulse until the coarse leafy herbs are as fine as the other ingredients. Baste filets with butter, coat with seasoning. Sear both sides in a smoking hot, dry pan, 1–2 minutes each side depending on thickness. Serve with melted butter. Seasoning recipe makes enough to fill a 12 oz jar and will coat many pieces of fish.

Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

The Joint Chiefs of Staff



By Dotson Lewis

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) is the body of the most senior uniformed leaders within the United States Department of Defense, which advises the president of the United States, the secretary of defense, the Homeland Security Council and the National Security Council on military matters. The composition of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is defined by statute. It consists of a chairman, a vice chairman, the chiefs of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force, and the chief of the National Guard Bureau. Each of the individual service chiefs, outside their Joint Chiefs obligations, works directly under the secretaries of their respective military departments, e.g. the secretary of the Army, the secretary of the Navy, and the secretary of the Air Force. Dotson's Note: Thanks to Captain Alvin Cotler and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



United States Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and United States Deputy Secretary of Defense Charles W. Duncan Jr with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General George S. Brown and the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon in 1977

As the U.S. military grew in size following the American Civil War, joint military action between the Army and Navy became increasingly difficult. The Army and Navy were unsupportive of each other at either the planning or operational level and were constrained by disagreements during the Spanish-American War in the Caribbean campaigns. The Joint Army and Navy Board was established in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt, comprising representatives from the military heads and chief planners of both the Navy's General Board and the Army's General Staff. The Joint Board, acting as an "advisory committee," was created to plan joint operations and resolve problems of common rivalry between the two services.

Yet, the Joint Board accomplished little, as its charter gave it no authority to enforce its decisions. The Joint Board could not originate its own opinions and was thus limited to commenting only on the problems submitted to it by the secretaries of war and Navy. As a result, the Joint Board had little to no impact on the manner in which the United States conducted World War I. After World War I, the two secretaries agreed in 1919 to reestablish and revitalize the Joint Board. The mission of the General Staff was to develop plans for mobilization for the next war. In these, the U.S. was always designated "blue" and potential enemies were assigned various other colors. Now, the Joint Board's membership was to include the chiefs of staff, their deputies, and the chief of war plans division for the Army and the director of plans division for the Navy. Under the Joint Board was to be a staff called the Joint Planning Committee to serve the board. Along with new membership, the Joint Board could initiate recommendations on its own initiative. However, the Joint Board still did not possess the legal authority to enforce its decisions.

Dotson's Other Note: I have recently been asked if the Chiefs of Staff are involved in what is going on with Venezuela in South America now. Your thoughts will be appreciated. Thanks for reading.



The Joint Chiefs of Staff in September 2025

Today, their primary responsibility is to ensure personnel readiness, policy, planning, and training of their respective services for the combatant commanders to utilize. In addition, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff acts as the chief military advisor to the president and the secretary of defense. In this strictly advisory role, the Joint Chiefs constitute the third-highest deliberative body for military policy, after the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council, which includes the president and other officials besides the chairman of the Joint Chiefs. While serving as the chairman or vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chief of staff of the Army,

commandant of the Marine Corps, chief of naval operations, chief of staff of the Air Force, or commandant of the Coast Guard, basic pay is \$18,808.20 a month, plus a \$4,000 per year personal money allowance.



Gene's Corner

A Writers Daily routine Continued

By Gene Saegert

This will be the last of this article. (Sighs of relief from the readers and probably the editor) Ok we left with beds made, daily pills and vitamins taken, now onto the breakfast challenge. First thought, look in the fridge for any possible left overs. Bad mistake, fridge filled with UFOs (that is unidentified food objects).

I see refried beans from yesterday, well maybe Tuesday, or wait, was it Sunday or maybe even Monday? Toss those. Gonna have to start labeling stuff with dates. Is that green stuff on that piece of cake icing or is it mold? Better not take a chance on that one. Decide not to look even further back in the history section of the fridge right now.

Getting desperate, just grab the Cran Grape drink and close the fridge. Yuck, what is that sticky stuff on the juice bottle and when is that from? Oh well, juice probably does not spoil anyway. Just fill the glass and put it back in the fridge. Still hungry, so I just grab the minute oats carton and fix me a bowl full and add some of those brown bananas and some kind of shriveled up berries, could possibly be blueberries, I will just say that's what they are.

Next, heat up some water and throw in a spoonful of instant coffee. Open the fridge again and grab the creamer. Wait, oh no why would I put an empty creamer bottle back in the fridge! Wait I think I saw a carton of heavy whipping cream that I used to make

that desert on Thanksgiving. I heard whipping cream doesn't go bad, or does it? Made my own creamer with cinnamon and vanilla. Oatmeal eaten, coffee done, time to go to the park for the morning run. I realize that I may be in a rut. I run the same time and place every day and this is what it see... There is run a little, walk a little guy, kinda like me. There is lady with the big black dog, lady with the little tiny dog a miniature terrier or something and one medium size dog. There is guy who runs with a loud annoying radio. Then there is fast running guy who always laps me two or three times even when I am running. There are the 3, one short and two tall ladies, and there are two little sweet ladies who just walk and talk and enjoy the day. Then there was nice lady who walked and talked with me one day and never came back. I am not sure how to take that, am I that weird that I ran her off, please don't answer that. Ok, run done, did I beat last runs record, oops, forgot to set the timer. Well, all is not lost I did think of a couple of good ideas for the next comic strip.

Enough of my day (Thankfully, I am sure). Next week, back to normal.

No thought for the day today, just this question: Do any of you make a paper list to take to the grocery store, then leave it at home and just decide to wander aimlessly up and down the aisles thinking you will remember what the items were?



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Lukas Vicari, visiting from Indiana, caught and released a 43 inch Back Drum off an island pier.



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

What do you see when you look out over things these days?

The Great Outdoors is a John Hughes comedy film starring the late John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. Chet Ripley (Candy) and family are enjoying a vacation at a Wisconsin lakeside cabin. That vacation is interrupted by obnoxious brother-in-law Roman Craig (Aykroyd) and family. As the movie moves along tensions rise between the families creating plenty of hilarious moments.

In one scene Chet and Roman are sitting at the cabin looking over the lake and surrounding country. It's a beautiful view. Chet shares his desires for family bonding in this locale that has great meaning to him. Chet asks Roman what he sees when he looks over the view. Roman begins a lengthy discussion of undeveloped resources and possibilities. He sees unlimited opportunity through the lens of greed and exploitation.

Chet only sees trees. His is the lens of simplicity and relationship.

Roman's viewpoint is dominant in our culture. It explains Venezuela and threats against other countries; it explains immigrants who are dehumanized and villainized; it explains why empathy and compassion are considered weaknesses; it explains our narcissistic dysfunction.

What do you see when you look out over things these days?

Living in a place of perpetual island time might skew our vision. Between sunrises and sunsets, moon rises, walks on the beach, fishing, surfing, beachcombing, kayaking, birding, social events, and all the other paradise-type opportunities much might go unnoticed and unseen.

We might miss those who are desperate for joy. Those who long for a joy that transcends the ups and downs of life. We might miss the ones grieving. We might miss families that are stressed and overloaded. We might miss those that are trying to cope with the struggles of aging and the inevitability of death. We might miss those who are tired, fatigued, overwhelmed, running on fumes. We might miss those anxious and worried about finances, the future, or unjust, corrupt, and vengeful leaders wielding unchecked power.

In 2010 DJ Khaled released the song *All I Do Is Win*. It has become an anthem that continually echoes in athletic arenas around the world. It is a song of winning and greed, appropriate for sports teams and their fans who hope to crush their opponents. You

might even hear it this weekend. I am hoping my beloved Chicago Bears can sing of victory this week!

Our culture suggests life is about winning, winning by any means. Because there can only be one champion, and everyone else is a loser. This breeds influencers and leaders who talk domination and annihilation. It causes those same voices to declare the hemisphere belongs to their team. Even the church has been guilty of thinking military might and victory, great wealth, or gold-plated narcissism is proof of God's favor. All of this is seeing the world through the lens of greed and exploitation.

The Bible calls for people to rejoice in the victory of God. (Psalm 98) Praise awakens us to a new perspective in the presence of evil. Praise empowers us to see God's activity in the ordinary activities around us, enabling us to see the unseen before our eyes.

God's victory does not resemble human conquest. God's victory is not an end, but the means for establishing peace and equity throughout creation. God's victory is revealed in the self-emptying and self-giving life of Jesus. Praise of Christ becomes a way of delegitimizing unjust power by pointing to a different authority altogether.

The power of God is best displayed not in who gets crushed but who gets lifted. This is the hope that looks at the grave and yearns for life, hope that demands justice when oppression seems to reign, hope that sees a future when expectation has waned.

We can choose a perspective of simplicity and relationship. We can praise the God who brings a victory for all humanity through healing, mercy, grace, redemption, deliverance, and love. We can praise the God who creates in ways that give power and hope beyond our current imagination. We will see what we might otherwise miss; we respond in self-emptying and self-giving love.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans 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



Tri-colored heron at its preening station - at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center.

By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Sports Talk Special to the Island Moon

Top quarterbacks of all time- Part 8

By Dotson Lewis



Dotson's Note: Who is the greatest quarterback of all time? It's a question that has been posed countless times. You might have a good idea on who is No. 1. But what about Nos. 2-25? Now those are the spots in the football universe where the QB debate gets pretty interesting. Makes for good conversation, too. I thought it would be a good time to discuss the game's most exalted position, and to contrast the most celebrated players that played it. It's always best when composing a list like this to allow some time to have passed since the most recent triumphs and victories. Otherwise, those achievements may seem greater than they will be after the passage of time. Therefore, we are going to only going to look at the quarterbacks who were playing through 2019. We're not considering anything that has happened in the 2020s. Patrick Mahomes won his first Super Bowl in 2019 so he, and all the newest "crop" of quarterbacks, can't enter the conversation at this point. Thanks to the late Bill Morgan and to Elliot Harrison for many of the facts contained in this report and to the late Bill Morgan.

Here We Go:

Number 2-Joe Montana-For a long time, it was Joe Montana and then everybody else in the greatest quarterback of all time conversation. Under Bill Walsh's tutelage, Montana ushered in a new era of offense in the NFL, a fresh take on an old moniker. The West Coast offense spawned a legion of imitators, with many of its principles still present in today's game.

Montana didn't own the strongest arm, but he was highly accurate and much more mobile than people remember. He threw perhaps the most catchable ball ever. Watch some of those Jerry Rice and John Taylor highlights. Notice how all the slants each took to the house hit them on the run, *softly* in stride. What stuck out more than the kind of passes Montana tossed was the quality of them; specifically, the circumstances in which so many of his greatest performances occurred. Montana was so often a maestro in contests against the NFC's toughest competition -- the 1988 NFC title game in frigid Chicago against *that* Bears defense springs to mind immediately. Against the AFC's premier teams in the Super Bowl, Montana was close to perfect. He won four of four, and was named MVP three times.

Stat you need to know: Montana's Super Bowl feats are well-documented. What is not as highlighted is how effective he was during a three-year span in which he almost lifted the 49ers to the first three-peat. Montana's postseason run from 1988 to 1990 pushed him to the lofty perch of being the greatest quarterback of all time, as he posted a 100-plus passer rating in eight straight playoff games, winning all but one start. That was the 1990 NFC Championship Game, when Montana got knocked out in the second half by the Giants' Leonard Marshall.

Number 1-Tom Brady-He's the all-time leader in the QB clubhouse, though not in many of the major statistical areas. Except, that is, for the category that has always

resonated the most with this position: winning. Brady owns the most wins at the position by a wide margin. His 251 regular-season victories are 65 more than second-placed Manning. His 35 postseason wins blow everyone out of the water. Early in his career, Brady was known for being an accurate passer who was smart with the football and could dial up big plays when the defensive-minded Patriots needed it. He was cool in the pressure moments, too. Brady let the game come to him toward the end of Super Bowl XXXVI, taking the checkdowns and short stuff to maneuver kicker Adam Vinatieri into range to finish off the «Greatest Show on Turf.» A less-heralded, but equally important, drive came at the end of Super Bowl XXXVIII, when Brady moved the Patriots' offense just enough to set up Vinatieri for another Super Bowl-winning kick. No such theatrics were needed the next year, as Brady was efficient in helping New England to its third Super Bowl in four seasons.

That seems like a lifetime ago. All he has accomplished since that time is win four more Super Bowls, start three others, win all 16 regular-season starts in a season for the first time in league history and throw up a top-five all-time offensive season from the quarterback position. And then there's Brady's 2010 season, sneakily the best year of his career. Unfortunately, Brady and Co. were knocked out of the postseason by Rex Ryan's pesky Jets. After that time, Brady made it to the AFC championship every year. Every. Year. From 2011 to 2018, that's eight straight conference championship game appearances, a record that will probably never be matched. While his seven Super Bowl rings are the most of anyone, Brady came oh so close to winning a couple more (in fairness, he was quite fortunate to prevail in two, too). A key drop late in Super Bowl XLVI could have been the difference in a Patriots win. He famously threw for *more than 500 yards* in the Super Bowl XLII loss to the Eagles. Perhaps it's an indication of Brady's dominance of the sport that all the post-game memes focused on his dropped pass, while Philly quarterback Nick Foles famously caught his. Never mind that the pass to Brady was directly over his helmet and about 50 times harder to catch than the shotput right to Foles' mitts. And who will ever forget how he left the Patriots and won his 7th Superbowl in 2021 with a totally different coach and team, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who hadn't even been to the playoffs since 2007.

Paramount to Brady's success has been his focus on what's in front of him. He refuses to lose, and early in his career, refused to be distracted. He would take less money every year to ensure New England had the resources to build a quality team around him. Brady has also produced the lowest INT percentage in a season four different times in his career -- a truly rare feat. He minimizes mistakes without sacrificing production, then wins the important downs so his team wins in the standings, game after game, year after year. Brady is the NFL's top all-time quarterback, if not player. Yep. He is probably that, too.

Stats you need to know: Brady's career has been a study in steady greatness, but it's also bookended by both individual and team accomplishments. There simply hasn't been much decline, and if anything, Brady might have improved in his later years. His first and most recent MVP seasons came a decade apart. Brady's first and most recent passing yards titles were 16 years apart. His first and most recent passing touchdowns titles were 19 years apart.

Bollard Buddies Return!

Photos by Debbie Noble

The beaches in Port Aransas became a lot more festive this week as two hundred and sixty handmade bollard covers were installed. This is the 10th year that the colorful mostly crocheted pieces of art called Bollard Buddies have been displayed on the bollards. The project was started by Diana Vondra who was traveling through Avignon France and happened upon a street that had been "Yarn Bombed". She thought that it was so delightful and whimsical that she was inspired to bring that joy home and share it during the winter months in Port A. A team of 13 volunteers assisted in the installation of the buddies and also ensured the buddies were cleaned and checked. Additionally, two volunteers have taken on the responsibility of monitoring the buddies morning and evening. The Bollard Buddies will be up until early March and then stored until next year. To see them just head to Horace Caldwell Pier in Port Aransas. Photos By Debbie Noble and her assistant J.R.



Diana Vondra's family Matt and Michele drove all the way from Iowa to help out.



Diana Vondra stands behind her creation as a breast cancer survivor.



Bat buddies!



10% Discount for Island Homes!

Red's
AIR CONDITIONING
SINCE 1986

Prompt Professional 24 Hour Service
No Overtime Charges

- All Makes and Models
- Commercial & Residential
- 10 Year Part & Labor Warranties on ALL New Equipment
- Financing available

(361) 949-9545

Serving Padre Island & Flour Bluff Since 1986



TACLB013184C



VISA



Marine Masters Mobile Marine Service

Certified Technicians

- Yamaha
- Honda
- Suzuki
- Mercury
- Evinrude
- Mariner
- Johnson
- Volvo

We've been providing quality marine repairs at your place since 2001.

Operator Owner

Jon Reynolds

361-949-7570

361-728-1745

marinemasters@hotmail.com

Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.

Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Police Blotter

December 16-December 31

15800 block SPID January 15 Burglary of a Vehicle

15200 block Cruiser December 17 Unauthorized Use of Vehicle (golf cart, 4-wheeler)

15200 block Windward Dr. December 19 Theft from a Building under \$100

10600 block SH 361 December 19 Burglary of a Vehicle

Gypsy/Whitecap December 19 Assault with Injury

10200 block SPID December 20 Theft \$100-\$750

15100 block Leeward Dr. December 22 Burglary of a Vehicle

14800 block Windward Dr. December 22 Burglary of a Vehicle

10200 block SPID December 23 Robbery

16100 block Seagrape St. December 24 Theft \$750-\$2500

400 block Anchor St. December 24 Burglary of a Vehicle

14300 block SPID December 25 Burglary of a Vehicle

15300 block Cruiser December 26 Assault

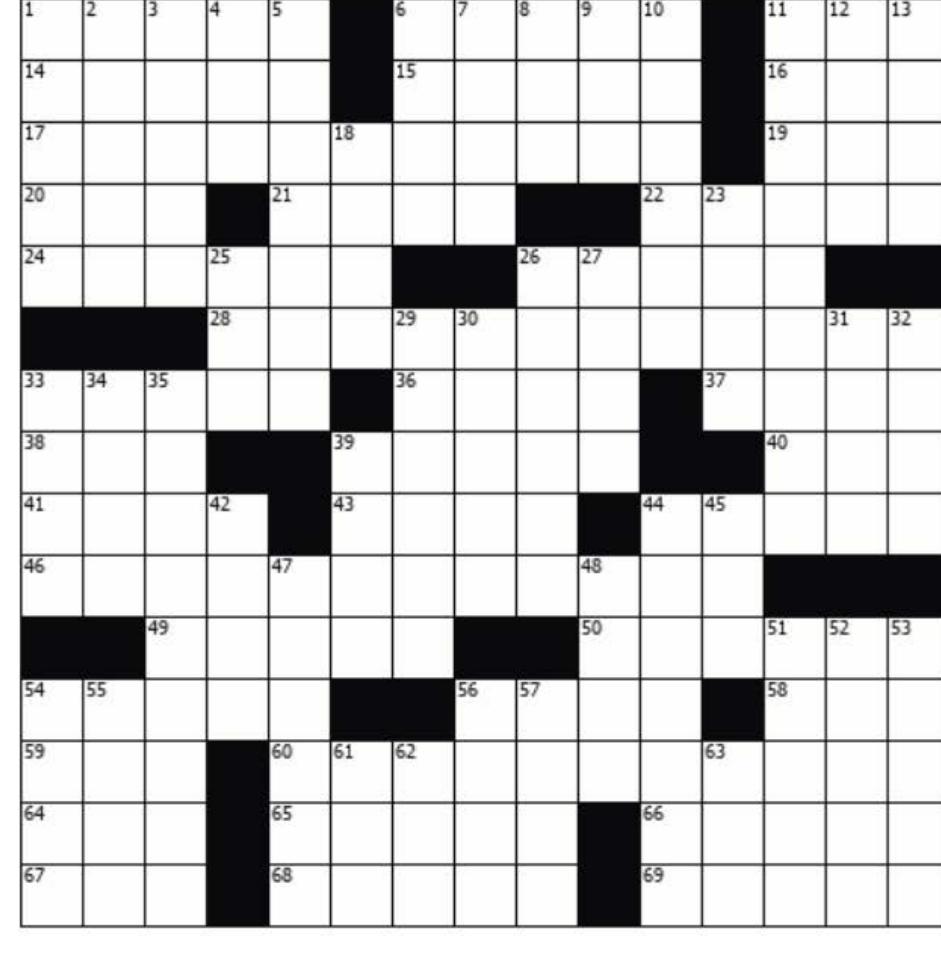
14800 block Granada Dr. December 15 Burglary of a Vehicle

13500 block Port Royal Court December 29 Burglary of a Vehicle

10600 block SH 361 December 19 Burglary of a Vehicle

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page



Down

1. Newsman Morley	23. Cocoon occupant	45. Make a pick
2. Dastardly one	25. Be in hock	47. Joke hearer's comment
3. Of ancient Peru	26. Latvia's sea	48. Mammal feature
4. Cambridge sch.	27. White Monopoly bills	51. "__ think so!"
5. Grapefruit hunk	29. Like lace	52. Shirt-tag word
6. Appliance for 28 Across	30. __-percha	53. Abacus user
7. Paella ingredient	31. Cartoon frames	54. Eject forcibly
8. Pop the question	32. Crinkly green	55. Start to sag
9. Tell a whopper	33. Wholly absorbed	56. Plot measure
10. Yo-yo need	34. Absorbed by	57. Fight-stopping decisions
11. Pirate caches	35. Seafarer's right	61. Genetic letters
12. Has a bug	39. SWM part	62. NL city
13. Toy dogs, for short	42. Pack away	63. Secretive org.
18. Take the mound	44. In best shape	

First Litter Critter of 2026 Scheduled for January 10 on Padre Island

The City will kick off its first Litter Critter community cleanup of the year on Saturday, January 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., beginning at the 14800 Block of Whitecap Boulevard on Padre Island.

Traffic control measures will be in place to guide participants through the drop-off site along the entire length of Windward Drive, south of Whitecap Boulevard.

Please note that cardboard recycling will not be offered at this event; however, oversized cardboard is accepted for recycling at the J.C. Elliott Transfer Station during regular business hours.

The Litter Critter initiative provides residents with a convenient way to dispose of

unwanted items outside of scheduled pickup dates.

Residents should prepare to offload their items; commercial hauling is not permitted. Items accepted include:

- Heavy brush
- Bulky items
- Household trash
- Up to 4 standard tires
- Metal items and household appliances

Items NOT accepted include:

- Hazardous waste
- Asbestos, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid, batteries, cleaning solvents
- Concrete



Moon Classifieds #1134

Here's how to place a Classified Ad	
To place an ad call: 361-949-7700 or Email your ads to: editor@islandmoon.com	
No texts please	
Costs start at \$15 for 25 words 25 cents a word after that Pictures or art additional \$5.00 Small charge for larger ads Ads with payment can be taken to our office at:	
14646 Compass St., Suite 4 Deadline for classified ads is no later than NOON on Tuesday	
PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLICATION	
We accept: American Express, Visa, MasterCard	
Al-Anon & AA Meetings	
Alcoholics Anonymous Sunset 7 AA Group Meets four times per week on North Padre Island Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7 pm at Island Presbyterian Church, 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr. Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion 15820 Park Rd 22. (In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)	
Is alcohol causing a problem in your family? Try Al-Anon	
Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm Sundays at Padre Island Baptist Church	

Services	
Appliance Repair	
	
-N- House Appliance Repair	
Most major brands & appliances	
Also offering complete dryer vent clean outs along with pool cleaning services	
Mention this ad for discount on repairs	
361-960-0911	
BBQ Cleaning	
CALL	
	
Because YOU don't want to do it!	
Frank 361-813-1929 cell 361-99-GRILL (994-7455)	
CoastalBendGrillCleaning.com	

Unity by the Sea	
Start your week feeling lighter and brighter. Join us Sundays at 11 a.m. for a positive message, Coffee & conversation.	
546 Caribbean Dr., Flour Bluff Hold Your Special Event with us!	
Unitybythesea.org 361-777-8844	

Services	
Junk Removal	
	
Save Our Shores Junk Removal	
Veteran Owned & Operated	
Furniture Removal & House Clean Outs	
Construction Debris Removal	
Light Demolition	
Bulk Item Pickups	
Hot Tub Removals	
Fence Removal	
Dumpster Rentals AND MORE!	
Owner: Nate Epling 361-941-3041	
Decks/Docks/Boat Lifts	
Artistic Construction	
Boat Lifts, Decks, Docks, Etc.	
Licensed & Insured	
Member of Padre Island Business Association	
361-444-4702 Sunniepadreisland@yahoo.com	

Collector's Items	
Five 1999 George magazines by	
Founding Editor JFK Jr.	
\$500 Cash only	
361 510-3089	

Rene's Plumbing
For all your plumbing needs. Gas lines, sewer, drain cleaning, water lines, water lines, water heaters, faucets and garbage disposals. "Licensed and Insured" Since 1970 Call 361-215-7943

Services	
Pool & Spa Service	
ATLANTIS POOL AND SPA SERVICE	
Weekly Pool Maintenance - Repairs	
Renovations - Chemicals - Supplies	
Residential - Commercial	
25 Years Experience - Insured	
Free Delivery! Free Estimates!	
Island Resident Owned	
Call 361-949-8899	

Services	
Wade In The Water Pool Services	
Cleaning - Repairs - Remodels	
Hot Tubs • Warranty Station	
Don't go OTB for pool & spa chemicals!	
15715 SPID #101	
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm	
FREE WATER TESTING	
Locally owned and operated since 2010	
Call 361-658-8581	

Services	
Outdoor Services	
Lawn & Tree Trimming	


COMMERCIAL CUTTERS
Tree Trimming & Stump Grinding Services
Fully Insured - Free Estimates
361-446-3980

Services	
Housekeeping	
Seaside Housekeeping & Interiors	
Reliable quality work since 1996	
Insured and bonded	
References available upon request	
Please call or text Valerie Elliott 361-215-4640	

GOT CRACKS?
CALL THE STUCCO PROS
AT 361-949-2100
Roofing
Wolfe Construction, Inc.

- Insurance Restoration Specialists
- Roofing
- Residential & Commercial

Bryan Wolfe 361-949-1180 15809 El Socorro Loop Corpus Christi TX 78418

ROOFING PROS!

Custom Home Exteriors, Inc.

Tom Sheehan 361-949-2100

Engineer Inspected/Windstorm Certified

Quality "Owens Corning" Shingles

Island Homeowner

Roofing Padre Island Since 1985!

Thuron Home improvement services
Appliances - fixtures exchange
Drywall repair and painting
Doors, windows, or cabinet repairing
Electrical or plumbing problem
Assembling new things and much more
Please contact us at 512-779-7494
Seniors - single mom's savings available

PIPOA 2026 Board Election

Early Notice • Electronic voting via ManageCASA

Key dates (2026)

Date	What happens
Feb 15	Candidate materials due (must be received)
Feb 25	Electronic polls open in ManageCASA
Mar 11*	Candidates meet & greet (planned, on/about)
Mar 19	Mailed ballot worksheets must arrive at POA office
Mar 24	Electronic polls close
Mar 27	Results provided to Board (no later than)
Mar 28 10:00 AM	Annual Meeting (location TBD)

How to vote

All votes are recorded in one system (ManageCASA) to keep a single official election record.

Option A (recommended): Vote online in ManageCASA

Use the electronic ballot during the voting window (Feb 25-Mar 24).

Option B: Mail a ballot worksheet (entered by staff into ManageCASA)

Download the worksheet from the POA website, complete it, sign it, and mail it to the POA office.

</

State News

Where People Moved in 2025**Texas is top Growth State according to U-Haul**

Texas is the No. 1 growth state of 2025, according to U-Haul® Growth Index migration data analyzing one-way customer transactions from the past calendar year.

Texas is the leading U-Haul growth state for the seventh time in 10 years, having recorded the greatest net gain of one-way U-Haul customers — just as it did from 2016-18 and 2021-23. Texas climbs one spot from its No. 2 ranking in 2024 when South Carolina took top honors. U-Haul customers arriving in Texas accounted for 50.7% of all one-way traffic in and out of the state last year (49.3% leaving).

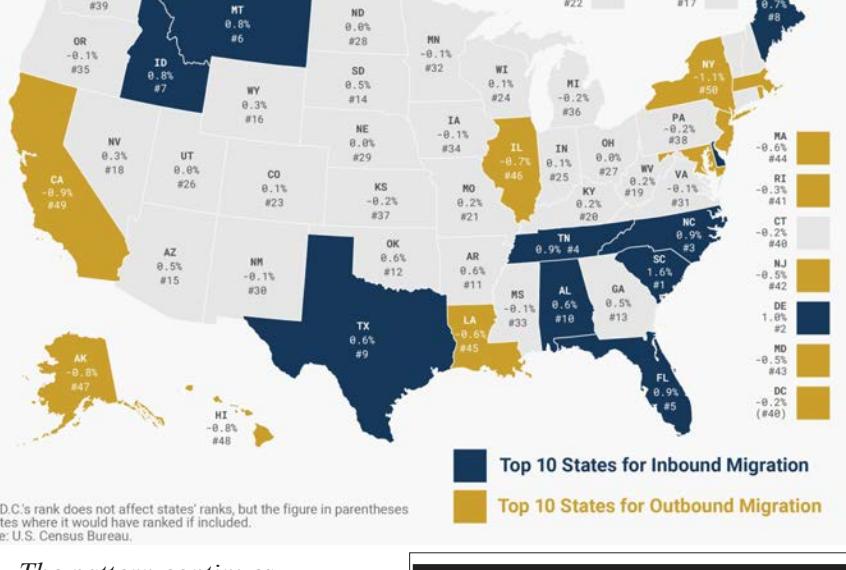
Compared to 2024, U-Haul customers coming to Texas rose 3% year-over-year while departures rose 1%.

States are ranked by their net gain (or loss) of U-Haul customers who rented a one-way truck, trailer or U-Box® portable moving container in one state and dropped off their equipment in another state. The U-Haul Growth Index is compiled from more than 2.5 million one-way U-Haul transactions that occur annually in the U.S. and Canada.

"We see a lot of people moving to Texas from the Northeast and West Coast," stated Matt Merrill, U-Haul Area District Vice President of the DFW Metroplex. "A lot of tech companies and corporations continue to move their headquarters to Texas, which leads to families moving here for their careers."

Cory Hall, U-Haul Area District VP of South Texas, added: "I have seen growth around all of the major metros in Texas, where there are a lot of homes being built in the suburbs. We are getting a lot of customers moving to Texas from Chicago, California, and New York. They come from lots of places, but we hear those three names a lot. People come here for a better quality of life."

The Lone Star State's notable growth markets include (in alphabetical order): Austin, Baytown, Brownsville, Bryan, Cedar Hill, Celina, College Station, Conroe, Eagle Pass, Edinburg, Forney, Fulshear, Georgetown, Harlingen, Hidalgo, Huntsville, Kingwood,





By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Holiday debriefing...



Susan Powell served her traditional lobster dinner at Christmas.

We have reached this point in time where I think we could all use a little recollecting and re-focusing. Just to state the obvious, for good or bad, the 2025 holiday season has come and gone. There were a lot of moving parts. No sooner had we gobbled up our giblets on Thanksgiving, the whole holiday season whizzed by in a blinding wink of the eye. I hold the *Gaff* responsible for their endless stream of events beginning with the annual *Turkey Bowl*. Of course, every fun event those guys come up with is always framed by their bi-monthly WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES... that's a given. So, as soon as December arrived, so did the lighted boat parades on both ends of the islands. Then we had the *Ugly Sweater Contest* which was won by **Brice** who gave us a perfect rendition of **Bob Roth** and his fluffy little clouds. That was soon followed by **Lucky the Chicken** and his fans betting on the exact spot where he would unload last night's dinner. Somewhere in there was a club decorating competition between *Bernie's* and the *Gaff*. On Christmas Day me and my **Mermaid Gal** had our traditional lobster dinner at **Susan and Gentry's** place in Port A and celebrated with close friends. **Chris Jordan** was on lobster detail... of course. And along with the holiday vibes, also came our *Winter Texan* families starting with a trickle and eventually progressed into a steady flow. And that could only mean one thing, the **PA Rockers** will soon be bopping at *Bernie's* before you know it... this past Wednesday the 7th to be exact.

And then Joe King showed up...



The Island Moon Live took the show mobile to the *Sip Yard* on New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve we jumped around town and caught veteran bluesman **John Cortez** at *Shorty's* then headed to the *Sip Yard* for the **Joe King Carrasco** show. But not before the *Island Moon Live* crew showed up with **Jacob Aug's** mobile radio/YouTube station where he and **Dale Rankin**, **Debbie Noble** and **Sammy Joe** (with the *Sip Yard*) sat down with **Joe King** and his wife **Nicole** to talk about their recent humanitarian trip to Ukraine. You can see that interview on the *Island Moon Live* YouTube channel. And then the next day we attended the *Gaff's* annual *Black Eye Pea Off* with our pals **Boudreux** and **Pousson** on stage. **Kip**, the owner, told me that this was the biggest turnout to date. The place was jam packed. After that, our **Mawuti Tribe** showed up at **Paul and Dede Fain's** house, as they do every year. The tribe consists of **Uel Jackson**, **Dennis** and **Marilynn Sullivan** and **Larry** and also **Billy Snipes** appeared. I think I'm an honorary member. **Uel** and **Dennis** played a couple of shows at the *Gaff* and *Shorty's*. Historically

speaking, the first few weeks of January are the slowest times of the year. And that's why we need our *Winter Texans* so desperately to fill in this seasonal void. Several live music venues are closed for the season including the *Sip Yard*, *Bron's* and *Treasure Island* leaving only *Shorty's* and the *Gaff* to keep that bouncing ball going. I've also noticed that the *VFW* has stepped up their live music game and out of nowhere, the *Salty Dog* opened back up. Did you get all that? So now we re-group and get a plan going for 2026... or not. I look forward to another great year on our little sandbar and hope you have one too. So get out there and start having fun... right now.



Port A Rockers started their 2026 Wednesday residency at *Bernie's* this week.

Coming this weekend...



The Mawuti Tribe came into town from all directions last week.

The battalion of bollard buddies has returned to our beaches. Specifically, almost every bollard on the island right now might have a variety of titles. Our (mostly) *Winter Texan* family knit and repair the big socks that go over our bollard. They may be Dracula or a black cat or a fuzzy headed old man. They change the whole vibe on the beach. You gotta check them out at a bollard near you, if you're in Port A. It's pretty slim pickings for live music around these parts right now. However, there's always happening stuff going on in town like at the *House of Rock*, *Brewster*, *The Exchange*, *Rockits*, *The Surf Club*, etc. And Padre has a nice scene going there too with a number of cool places. But in Port A, they're giving Square Dancing Lessons at the *Pioneer RV* on Friday nights. Also I think they're two-steppin' at *Mikel Mays* on NPI. The **Johnson All Starz** will be at *Shorty's* on Thursday with brother, **Art Johnson** calling the shots. He's been bringing in **Ray Ray Summy** and **Reno Perez** and it's a show meant for *Shorty's*. I ran into an old friend **Craig Ware Drummer Extraordinaire** and he's taken a hiatus from **Tumble Dry Low** right now and is playing with **Jered Clark** every Thursday and Sunday at the *Salty Dog*. Otherwise, its familiar faces this weekend with our hippie farmer from Medina, **Boone Holding**, will play *Shorty's* on Friday and *Cathouse* on Saturday. **Boo and Poo** are at the *Gaff* on Friday and on Saturday we race power tools. Yall be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Uel Jackson and Dennis Sullivan were back in town for the holidays.



BELT SANDER RACES
EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY

COLD BEER

THE GAFF

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM



Joe King Carrasco played New Year's Eve at the *Sip Yard*.



The *Gaff* was jamming at their New Year's Day Pea Off.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday,

January 8

Johnson All Starz @ Shortys

Clark Bros @ Salty Dog

Joseph Martinez @ The Slip

Ty Dietz @ Executive Surf Club

Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island

Trisum @ Brewster Southside

Huser Bros @ Brewster Downtown



BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.

BOUDREAU & POUSSON

JAN 9

JIM DUGAN

JAN 10

BRAD ETHEridge

JAN 11

DUNEBILLIES

JAN 16

Dog

Riptide Cowboy Open Mic @ Mikel May's Too

David Martinez @ Executive Surf Club

Monday,

January 12

Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday,

January 13

Square Dance Lessons @ Pioneer RV

Brad Ethridge @ VFW

Jerrioke @ Pelican Lounge

SHORTY'S

JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN

THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12

BOONE HOLDING

JAN 9

CATHOUSE

JAN 10

BILLY SNIPES

JAN 16

TODD DORN

JAN 17

DARREN MCGILL

JAN 23

Treasure Island

Busted Bicycle
Craft Cocktails
Tues- Sunday
Open at 5:00

Thursday,

January 15

Johnson All Starz @ Shortys

Clark Bros @ Salty Dog

Ty Dietz @ The Slip

David Martinez @ Brewster Southside

Eric Graham @ Brewster Island

Parker Ryan @ Brewster Downtown

Myriad of Minds @ Executive Surf Club

Sip Yard

CLOSED FOR SEASON
WILL REOPEN
February 13th

Sip Yard

CLOSED FOR SEASON

WILL REOPEN

February 13th



Live music
WILL Return
In March

Paradise Computer Services

Established, Local, Trusted

HELP

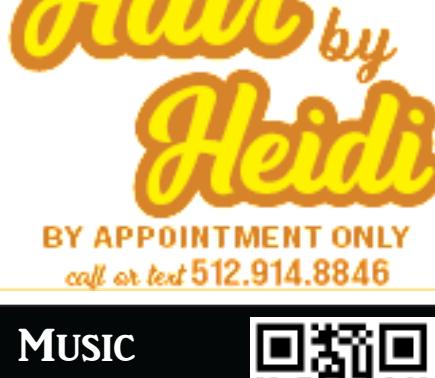
Since 2004

Sales & Service

409 wave G (Gulf of Mexico)

749-4960

Port Aransas



BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

call or text 512.914.8846



Port Aransas

TEXAS

RED'S

RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX