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Issue 1134

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The Island Moon

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January 8, 2026

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Photo by Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Around The Island

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Island Moon Live

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

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.



Jace Tunnell holding a handful of coquina clams

Beachcombing cont. on page A5

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.

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 show 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

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

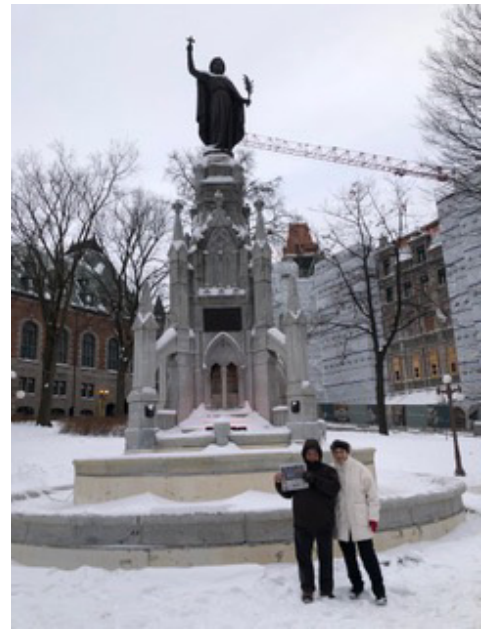


Common gallinules have exceptionally long, slender toes (without webbing) that allow them to walk on soft mud and floating vegetation like lily pads.

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.

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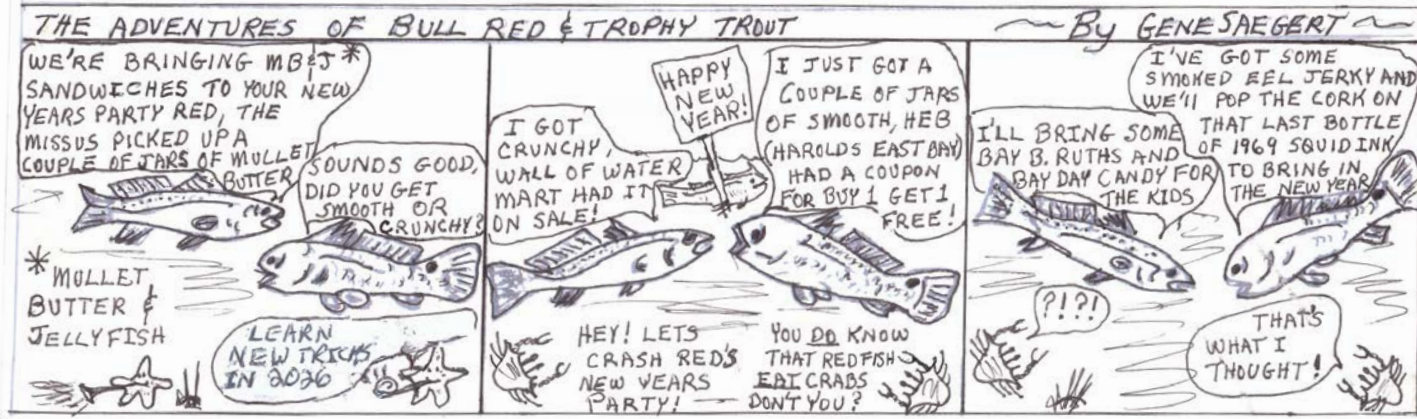
Early Voting:
February 17th - 27th

Election Day:
Tuesday, March 3rd

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Moon Monkeys

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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...

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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 Motocaddy 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

0.8629 Tyler

0.787352 Sinton

0.7947 San Angelo

0.76918 Kingsville

0.759649 El Paso

0.741129 Ingleside

0.755 Waco

0.7542 Abilene

.0718946 Portland

0.6999 Temple

0.6988 Dallas

0.68225 Beeville

0.67 Fort Worth

0.659663 Beaumont

0.6515 San Marcos

0.615706 Alice

0.603504 Brownsville

0.599774 Corpus Christi

0.59542 Denton

0.578846 Castle Hills (Bexar County)

0.574017 Austin

0.5619 Longview

0.541 San Antonio

0.51919 Houston

0.5135 Seguin

0.50609 Laredo

0.5 Aqua Dulce

0.4716 Boerne

0.4307 Amarillo

0.408687 Galveston

0.370147 Alamo Heights

0.357994 Terrell Hills (Bexar County)

.0201612 Port Aransas

0.19075 Ingleside on the Bay

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.

JFK repairs

It was announced at the meeting of the Island Strategic Action Committee this week that there are \$2.1 million funds available for improvements under and around the JFK Bridge. The design work is at 60% and the bids for the work could go out this month, according to city staff. After years of waiting we may finally be able to pull the plug on the *Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle*...

That’s all for now everybody, let’s hope the weather holds and remember half the fishermen on our little sandbar are above average, say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



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



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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 icterid 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

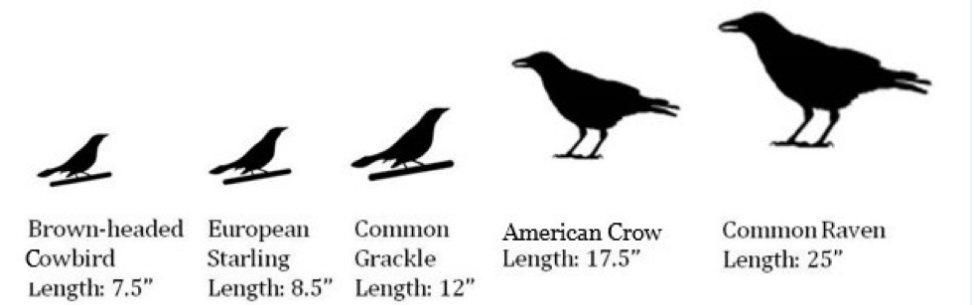
often mistaken for them. The males are a dark shiny black, often with blue and green sheen to their feathers. Females have more subdued blacks and browns. Their cousins, the Boat-tailed Grackles are very similar but sound a bit different and have dark eyes instead of yellow. Boat-tails are normally only 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!



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

Number of permits sold by each entity

118,021 City of Corpus Christi
153,439 City of Port Aransas

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

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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

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@melissamitchell-art.com.

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Moving Forward



Same Piece - Different Story

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

Advertorial

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.



For years, Brewster Street Icehouse has been a reliable gathering place across Corpus Christi. It’s where lunch breaks stretch a little longer, families share uncomplicated meals, and visitors get a genuine sense of local culture. The Padre Island location continues that tradition without trying to reinvent it. From the steady hum of conversation to the comforting aromas coming from the kitchen, the space already feels lived-in, even though it’s still new. Free live music and classic Texas coastal views round out the experience, tying everything together.

Brewster Street’s strength has always been rooted in doing the simple things well. It’s about consistency, showing up day after day with good food and a genuine sense of welcome that keeps people coming back.

Brewster Street Icehouse On the Island feels steady and at home in its surroundings. Opened in the summer of 2025, it carries forward what the brand has long done best, offering a dependable place to eat, gather, and slow down for a moment. Positioned just off the entrance to Whitecap Beach at 15241 Leeward Dr, it serves as a natural welcome to island life, unassuming and easy to return to.

In the end, Brewster Street Icehouse doesn’t rely on being new to make its impression. Its role is quieter than that. It’s rooted in good food, familiar faces, and a sense of place that grows over time. For locals and visitors alike, it’s less about discovering something different and more about finding somewhere that already feels right.



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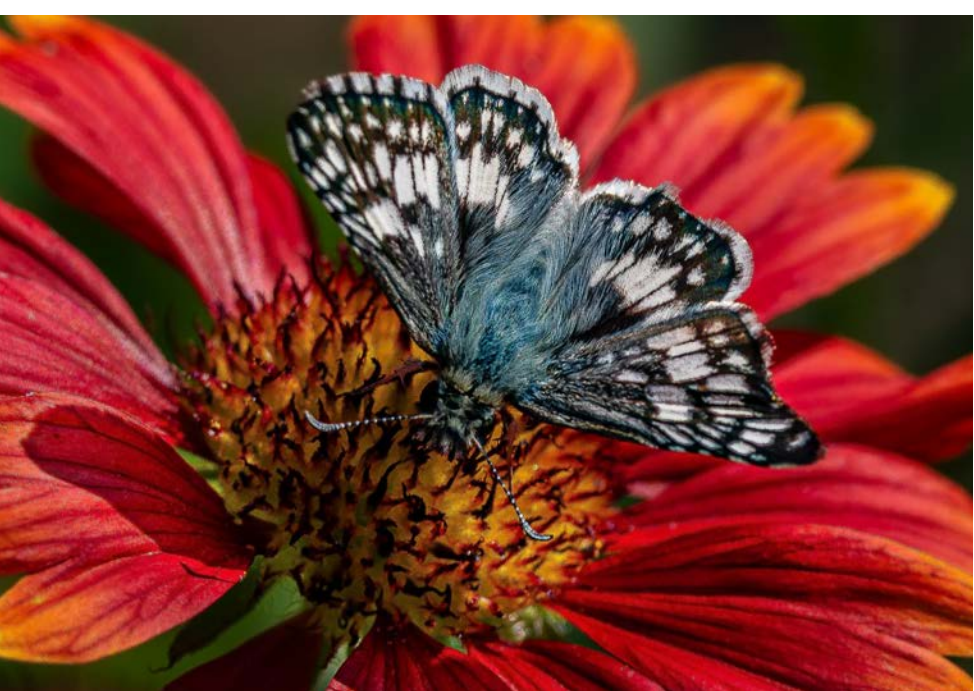
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Nature is beauty Photo By John Najvar



Island currency. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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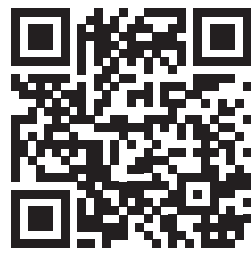
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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Last week I left you loyal readers as we made our way out towards Marfa and points west. I mentioned that I have done some work in Fort Stockton and thought that that was pretty far west; come to find out that's not even halfway to Presidio. West Texas is HUGE and stretches for hours across the desert.

Thankfully, I was with Jeff, Jake, and Henri, who have been out there the past couple of Christmas's and was recently out there this past Thanksgiving. They had a favorite campsite called "Star Party" in Big Bend Ranch, and we provisioned up along the way and went off roading to the campsite. It was eerie, as their previous tracks in the dirt were all still there like they had been there the day before, not two months prior. Their boots tracks, the truck, and they had even left a large piece of firewood next to the fire ring. Not a drop of rain or any sign of humidity. It was like footprints on the Moon.

Anyhoo, camped there a night, had a brilliant fire, howled at the moon, and had a good rest. We moved several times over the next couple of days between The Ranch and Big Bend State Park. Having a camper on top of the truck (more like the Taj Mahal) and being able to easily disconnect it and then bomb around untethered is really convenient. The weather was mediocre, but we had plenty of food, libations, and most importantly, firewood. It will take another week for me to get the campfire smell out of my hair. Ha!



Jeff Jake and Henri hit a rock

The openness and desolation of Big Bend is awe inspiring. We went down a "non-maintained road" that was supposed to be a 3 hour tour with a trail rating of a 3 out of 10. After 4 hours of literally clearing road, spotting the vehicle over treacherous terrain, and clearing brush, we figured out that we were halfway. We joked that we were going to find the person that designated the trail as a 3 and have words with them.

We made a trip down the Rincon trail down the Fresno Canyon, past the wild donkey herd. We stopped at the Manos Arriba location, where prehistoric occupants left behind traces of tool making stations, countless campfires, and pictographs of handprints. Literally standing in the shadows of ancient people. Thoughts of our tracks still there months later made me wonder how far apart were in time with our progenitors, but how close we might be a mere 1,000-2,000 years later. Time and places like that really make you reflect and gain perspective.



Manos Arriba



Wild Donkeys

We moved farther down the canyon and were walking down an arroyo and discovered a small village of old ranchers' cabins and building foundations. It was completely unmarked and overgrown with trees, and you wouldn't have known it was there. We got an eerie feeling walking through the abandoned buildings that still had old bottles, curious tools, and handsaws on the tables. There was an early stove that had pans on the top. There were no signs saying "don't touch or take anything"; that was well understood. More recent history right in front of us yet still seemed untouched after many years. More modern perspective.

We made our way back to base camp, and the next day we ventured into Big Bend National Park. It felt like a national park, with rangers and Do Not Enter signs all over the place. We made our way over to the Hot Springs, but the road down to it was closed. No problem, a short 2.5-mile hike, and we were down in the Rio Grande canyon above Boquillas, soaking in the 104 degree natural seep flowing straight into the river, with Mexico just a few steps on the other side. Surreal, and absolute bliss.



Hot Springs



Starlight Theater Terlingua

Well folks that was the short story. We headed north and Jeff dropped Henri and me off at the airport in El Paso where we headed south, and he and Jake were headed north to go off roading in Moab. Some of us had to get back to town and get back to work and back to reality, where things like the Island Mobility Plan are short fuses and need some attention. The \$17 million in MPO funds for the PR 22 Safety Improvement project needs to hit the front burner of the city, or we stand to leave a lot of money on the table for the Island. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Warm Winter Days



Colt "THE BOLT" holds a stringer of trout we caught this week drifting along the grass lines of the Laguna Madre with soft plastics. Farah

I sat on the beach yesterday with my granddaughter, digging in the sand and watching everyone surf. No wetsuits, people playing in the water, the rays of January sun belting my back. No complaint at all, but there is a rhythm to all things Wild. Winters are beautiful too and needed. A sort of hibernation of man and beast alike. In our back bays the bottom of the food chain settles and stays close to the soft bottoms that will allow shrimp, crabs, mites, Eels and worms to burry deep during those cold snaps. Everything has been warm and finding food is not hard to do for gamefish. They have been lazy and eating whenever they want to. Look for our coldest times to be ahead; don't believe we will miss winters hand completely.

ten degree shift will send them back into deep water and into winter patterns.

Once again I'm late to send in my homework to the Moon Monkeys so I have to cut it off short. Enjoy those rays of January sun, and soak up every single day we are blessed to be on this strip of sand. Follow our fishing on Facebook at Joey FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING! 361-442-8145

Even though it's January look for spring and summer areas and fishing styles to work well when it's warm. We are staying close to the grass lines in the open flats inside the Laguna Madre. Drift fishing with soft plastics is producing 60-100 trout days most every trip. Gamefish are starting to lose their winter weight that could be bad if we get a good hard freeze. We have been most successful throwing jig head sizes in the 1/8-1/4 size with a varied speed. During colder conditions this will move towards a slower presentation in all ways to hug the bottom, as fish and bait will be lethargic. After so much time in the warm end of the thermometer, any cold snap will send a chill and stun these game fish for a few days. A



Waylon spent the week off from college, home and working on his angling skills. He landed this redfish along with about 40 trout on soft plastics, DOWN SOUTH LURES Purple Reign did the trick!

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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 barbeque 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 proly 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 putta 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.



Following the Goldwater–Nichols Act in 1986, the Joint Chiefs of Staff do not have operational command authority, either individually or collectively, as the chain of command goes from the president to the secretary of defense, and from the secretary to the regional combatant commanders. Goldwater–Nichols also created the office of vice chairman, and the chairman is now designated as the principal military adviser to the secretary of defense, the Homeland Security Council, the National Security Council and the president. Responsibility for conducting military operations goes from the president to the secretary of defense directly to the commanders of the unified combatant commands and thus bypasses the Joint Chiefs of Staff completely.

The Joint Staff is a headquarters staff in the Pentagon, composed of personnel from each of the six service branches, that assists the chairman and the vice chairman in discharging their responsibilities and is managed by the director of the Joint Staff.

Role and responsibilities



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.

Although it is a branch of the Armed Forces pursuant to 14 U.S.C. § 101, the Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security rather than the Department of Defense, except when the president (e.g., in times of war or national emergency) transfers it to the Department of the Navy. The commandant of the Coast Guard is not a *de jure* member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff but is sometimes regarded as a *de facto* member, being entitled to the same supplemental pay as the Joint Chiefs, and occasionally will attend meetings of the JCS by invitation. Unlike the Joint Chiefs, who are not actually in the military's operational chain of command, the commandant is both the administrative and the operational commander of the Coast Guard.



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 in Venezuela in South America now. Your thoughts will be appreciated. Thanks for reading.



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



By Dotson Lewis

Top quarterbacks of all time- Part 8



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 shotgun right to Foles' mitts. And who will ever forget how he left the Patriots and won his 7th Super Bowl 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.



Bat buddies!



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



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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17					18							19		
20				21					22	23				
24				25				26	27					
				28			29	30					31	32
33	34	35				36						37		
38					39							40		
41			42		43					44	45			
46				47					48					
	49							50				51	52	53
54	55						56	57				58		
59				60	61	62						63		
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

Across

- Reads quickly
- Rigorous exams
- Pub fixture
- Comics kid
- Drop in on
- Carnival city
- Editor's helper
- Sturdy tree
- Gabor sister
- Jukebox selection
- "No bid"
- "The Bathers" painter
- Reward for a fine job
- Spago chef
- Gotten up
- Wear the crown
- Painter's calculation
- Bug in a farm
- Kitchen protectors
- Right-angle bend
- Sch. groups
- "Height" word form
- "Cabaret" director
- Salsa scooper
- Golf pro's woe
- Head Hun
- Legree's creator
- Keep __ (persist)
- Papa
- Actress Zadora
- Performance history
- Blow it
- Emcee's task
- Burn a bit
- Tie the knot
- "Tall" accounts
- Spud

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 | 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 | |

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

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:
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PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLICATION
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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?
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Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm
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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)

*Date is approximate; final details will be posted by the POA.

Open board seats (4)

- Treasurer (expiring appointment)
- Vice President (expiring appointment)
- Board Member (expiring elected term)
- Residual Open Position (open seat from prior cycle)

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.

Deadline: worksheets must arrive no later than Mar 19, 2026.

Election integrity rule: paper worksheets must be delivered only by the property owner.

Run for the board

Submit by Feb 15, 2026 (email to the Executive Director). Eligibility is governed by the association's governing documents; candidates will be vetted Feb 16–23.

- Statement of intent to run
- Resume or summary of relevant experience
- Short biographical sketch (for posting on the POA website)

Also expected this cycle

A bylaw update is planned to remove references to the "seawall."

Questions / candidate submissions: Executive Director • exdir@pipoa.net

Note: Dates are based on the current planning schedule; any updates will be posted by the POA.



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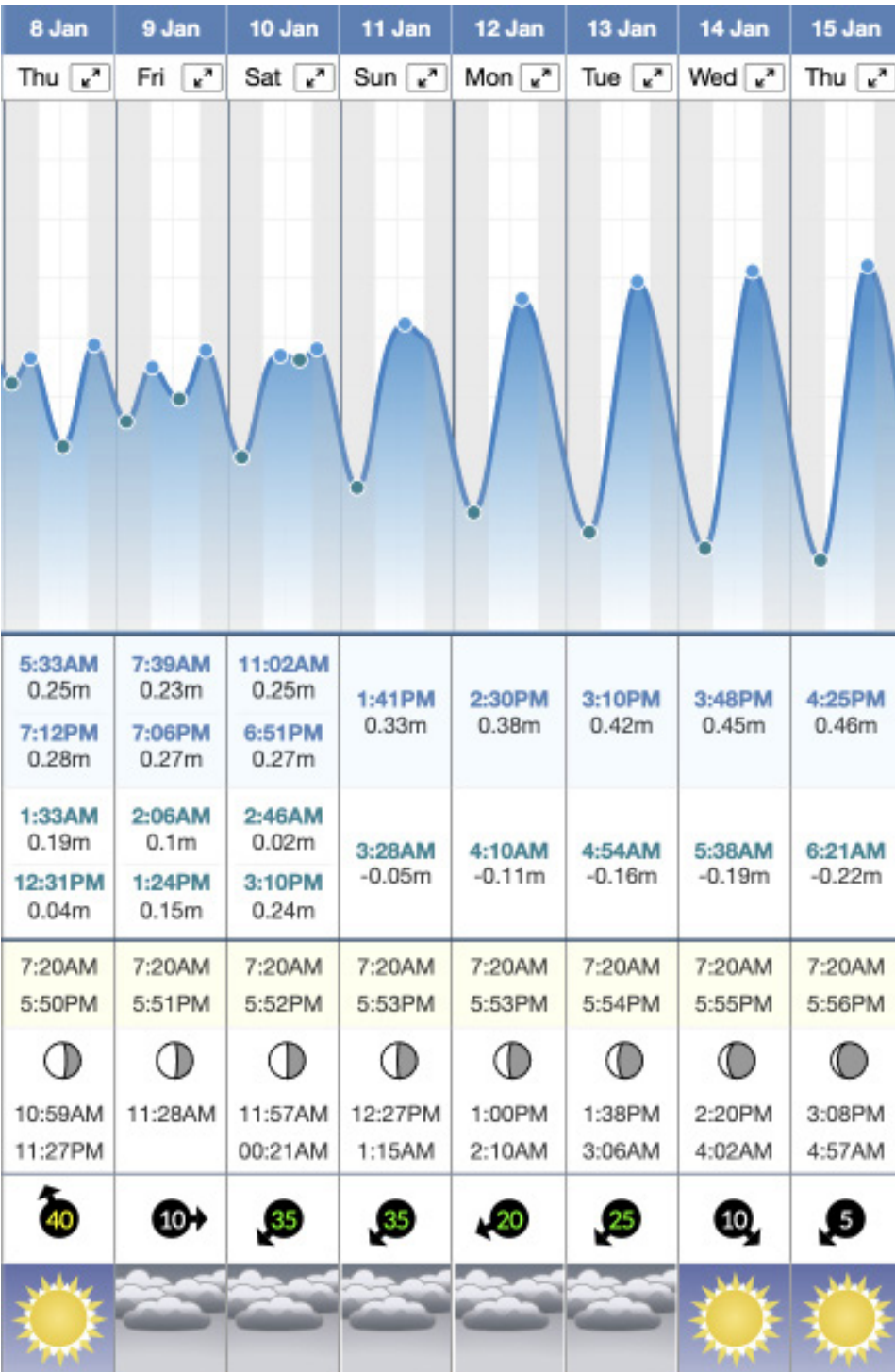
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Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

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,

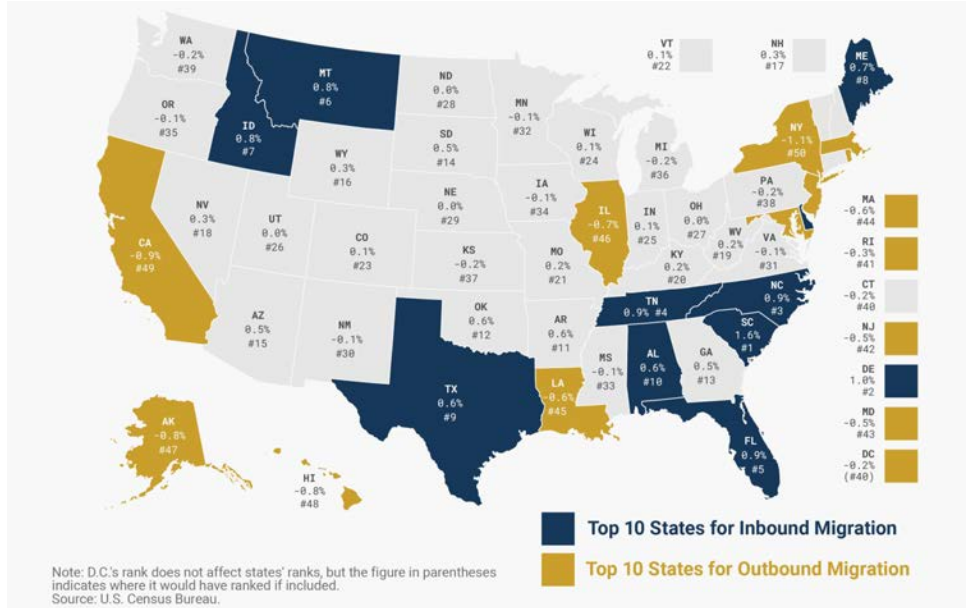
Kyle, Leander, Magnolia, McAllen, McKinney, New Braunfels, Pflugerville, Pharr, Princeton, Prosper, Round Rock, Seguin and Tyler.

Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina round out the top five growth states of 2025. It’s the same top five from 2024 and 2023, although in a different order.

California ranks 50th for the sixth year in a row with the largest net loss of one-way U-Haul customers. Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Illinois are also among the bottom five.

U-Haul based the numbers on migration monitored through its network that covers all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces. The geographical coverage from more than 24,000 rental locations provides a comprehensive overview of where people are moving.

- U-Haul Growth States
1. TEXAS (2 previous year)
 2. FLORIDA (4)
 3. NORTH CAROLINA (3)
 4. TENNESSEE (5)
 5. SOUTH CAROLINA (1)
 6. WASHINGTON (7)
 7. ARIZONA (6)
 8. IDAHO (10)
 9. ALABAMA (16)
 10. GEORGIA (15)
 11. OREGON (34)
 12. MONTANA (24)
 13. ARKANSAS (12)
 14. OKLAHOMA (11)
 15. MAINE (13)



The pattern continues. 2023 State Migration Map showing similar results

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State Sales Tax Revenue up 5.7% in November over 2024

Restaurant receipts sales increase less than inflation, oil and natural gas production down

State sales tax revenue totaled \$4.3 billion in December 2025, 5.7 percent more than in December 2024, according to figures released this week by the Texas Comptroller’s Office. The majority of December sales tax revenue is based on sales made in November and remitted to the agency in December.

Some key sectors showed small increases or decreases from November 2024 including oil production (down 9%), natural gas (down 21%), and alcoholic beverage taxes (down 2%).

While collections from the mining and construction (including oil) sectors both showed sharp declines compared with the same month a year ago, receipts from the manufacturing sector grew moderately and remittances from the information and wholesale trade sectors showed very strong monthly year-over-year gains. Remittances from machinery, equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers were particularly strong within the wholesale trade sector.

Among the major sectors driven mostly by consumer spending, receipts from the retail trade and service sectors both increased soundly compared with December 2024. The retail trade sector, the largest sector, was up more than 5 percent compared with December 2024. Receipts from electronic shopping surged by double-digits for the second consecutive month, in part driven by Black Friday and Cyber Monday holiday promotional sales after Thanksgiving.

Receipts from restaurants were up less than 2 percent from a year ago, less than the rate of inflation for food away from home in November.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in December 2025 was up 5.2 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections.

Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$614 million, up 5 percent from December 2024;
- motor fuel taxes — \$324 million, up 4 percent from December 2024;
- oil production tax — \$394 million, down 9 percent from December 2024;
- natural gas production tax — \$169 million, down 21 percent from December 2024;
- hotel occupancy tax — \$61 million, up less than 1 percent from December 2024; and
- alcoholic beverage taxes — \$148 million, down 2 percent from December 2024.



Just a normal day at the Gaff. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

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