



The Art of Island Life A6



Beachcombing Report A5



Fat Friday A6



Three Chords and the Truth B8



Stuff I Heard A4

Issue 1138

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Turtle Release on the beach. Photo by Debbie Noble



ISLAND MOON LIVE
THURSDAY'S FROM 7-9
ON YOUTUBE AT ISLAND
MOON LIVE AND ON
FACEBOOK AT THE ISLAND
MOON NEWSPAPER



By Dale Rankin

Generally here at the Word Factory we avoid clichés like the plague but given the vitriolic nature of the current political season we make an exception and just call it *crazy*. This is the time of year when various office seekers beseech us to roll up the Island Moon and hit somebody else over the head with it and we try to print enough pages each week to allow it when rolled into the proper shape to deal misery to a common Island horsefly. As hard as it is to believe, Early Voting for the March Party Primaries will begin on Tuesday, February 17 which is also the day before Ash Wednesday so if you are giving up voting for lent you will have to vote on Tuesday or miss out.

Octopus arrival

This guy washed up on the beach north of Bob Hall Pier this week confirming that there are in fact octopuses (or octopodes if you prefer) in the ocean! Who knew? In fact divers around the Packery Jetties see the creatures on a regular basis but finding one on the beach is rare and qualifies as man bites dog so we include it here.

Lenten Fish Fry

And lent means one thing *Around The Island*, the Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry at St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and will be held every Friday of Lent thereafter. The fish dinners during lent there have become part of the annual Island

Marina work begins!

Whitecap NPI also adding retail and restaurant space on Compass Street

By Dale Rankin

Work has begun on the marina and boat storage facility at the Whitecap NPI site adjacent to the Don Patricio Bridge.

Phase I of the work now underway includes an access road to the marina site, utilities and site work, and the utilities for a boat dry stack storage facility which will be located between the marina and South Padre Island Drive, according to Ashlar Development Executive Vice President Terence Johnson.

Whitecap NPI cont. on page A6



Whitecap NPI Marina Construction

Let there be Lights!

The light fixtures are going up at Bob Hall Pier in anticipation of its opening this month.

Aerials by Jacob Augs



Communing with the Oysters

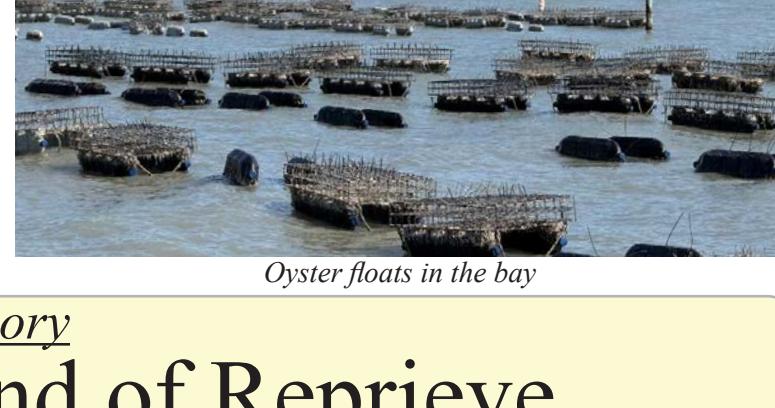
Port Aransas boat tour offers look at beds with one million oysters

By Jan Rankin

On a cool but sunny Sunday we set out on the *Scarlet Lady* tour boat to visit the Texas Clear Water Oyster Gardens. The Oyster Gardens are located on a two acre site in the southern part of Aransas Bay about four miles from the Port Aransas Marina.

The oyster farm uses a method

Oysters cont. on page A7



Oyster floats in the bay

A little Island history

Island of Reprieve

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of stories taken verbatim from the memoirs of Islander Louis Rawalt who moved to The Island with his wife Viola in 1925 after being given only six months to live by doctors due to injuries from a mustard gas attack in World War I. In the last story he had already outlived the doctor's estimate by over six months. He and his wife Viola originally built a cabin near what is now Packery Channel.

By Louis Rawalt

We moved our camp to the edge of Big Shell the next year, (1926) thirty-five miles down the beach. This time we had a shack to live in. A place loaned to us by Major Swan, one of the old timers on The Island. I bought a surf net and used a Model-A to replace the rust-eaten Model-T. We converted the Ford into a pickup. Viola helped me with the net until I found a fishing partner.

One morning when we were hauling in the net, something kept leaping against it with the force of a huge shark or a porpoise. We couldn't bring it in, so I staked one end of the net into the sand, and hooked onto the other end with the car.

Slowly, I pulled in the net until the creature lay in the edge of the surf. Incredible! It was an eighteen-foot sawfish. When some fishermen came by later that day

History cont. on A7

Crucial PIPOA election

Failure to reach quorum of voting members for second year could lead to legal logjam

February 15 deadline to file for four seats with only one candidate registered

By Dale Rankin

With only one week to go before the filing deadline only one candidate has filed for the four seats open on the Padre Isles Board of Directors. Voting in the race for the majority of the seats on the board will be done exclusively online for the second year in a row with paper ballots sent only to members with no confirmed email address on file.

In the 2025 race for two board seats 424 votes were cast which was 78 votes short of the 502 required for a quorum of members (10%) so no members were elected to the board requiring the appointment of members to fill empty seats and the board has continued to operate with six members.

In the past year the number of PIPOA members has dropped to 4988 properties

The four seats on the ballot are for John Pasch VP, Terry Brown Treasurer, Bill Davenport Member, and one empty seat previously not filled. A total of 489.8 ballots must be cast by members in order to reach the required quorum and make the election official.

PIPOA cont. on page A3

Laguna Madre Skiffs

How Laguna Madre boats went from sail to power

By Bobbie Kimbrell

Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell has lived in Flour Bluff since the early 1940s where he was a commercial fisherman until his retirement.

Back when outboard motors became dependable enough to use commercially, in the late 1930s and early 1940s, most of the commercial fishing skiffs were on the narrow side, about three and one-half to four feet wide and sides about two feet high with a two-by-two keel which helped for sailing. The narrow width made for better poling and rowing as well as sailing. Most of the skiffs were homemade with very few made for selling.

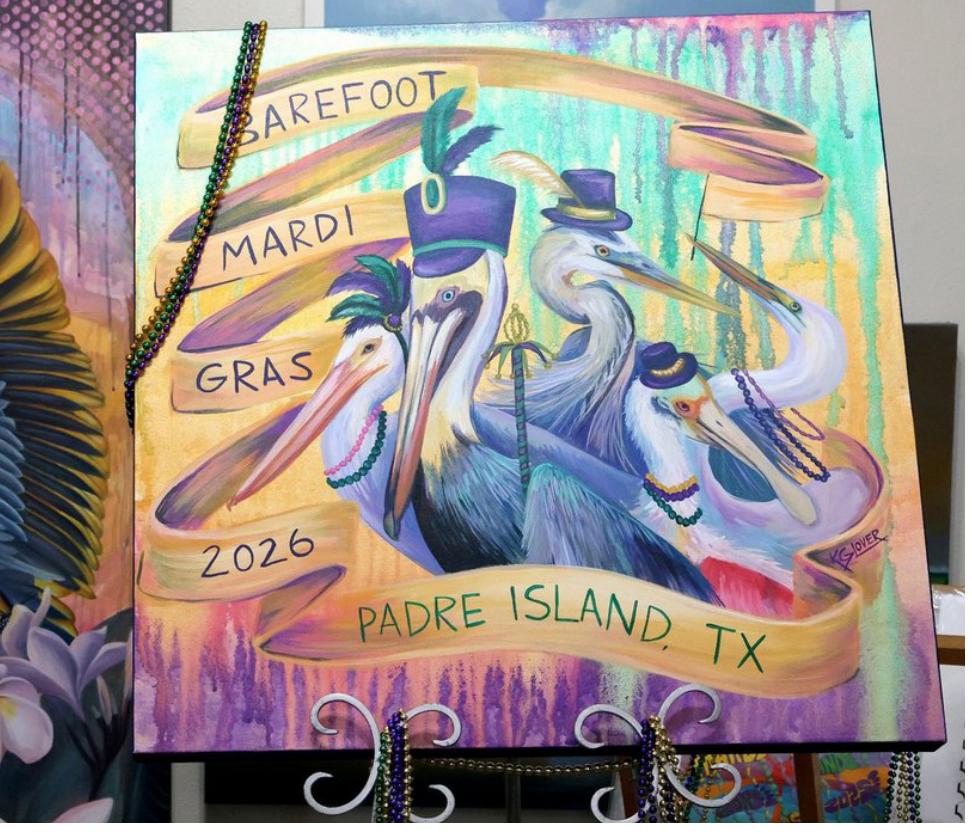
It wasn't until after World War II, 1945, when skiffs were made for

Skiffs cont. on A3

Around cont. on A5



Kaleigh Glover signed copies of her Barefoot Mardi Gras poster for 2026 this week. They are available for purchase. Photo By Debbie Noble.



2026 Barefoot Mardi Gras poster.

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ARK, Sealife Center, and Texas State Aquarium step in for Sea Turtles



Texas Sealife Volunteers celebrate a successful turtle release last Thursday
Photo by Jan Rankin



Hundreds of spectators watched as rehabilitated Sea Turtles are released by the ARK in Port Aransas. Photo By Ronnie Narmour



Five Texas Sealife Volunteers happily take a big one back to sea.
Photo By Debbie Noble

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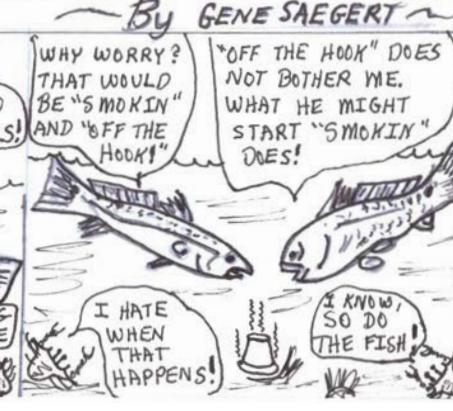
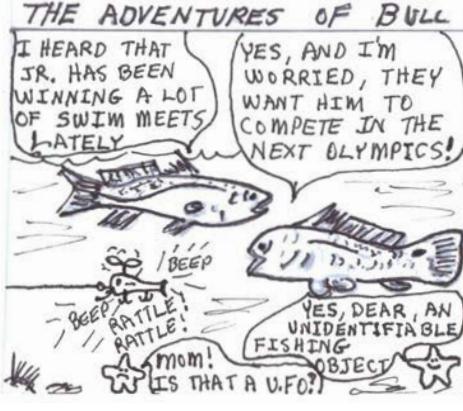


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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Skiffs cont. from A1

using as outboard motor for power. Those skiffs were much wider and sides a little higher with oak rub rails and splashboard around the lower dies and most of them were homemade.

Prior to outboard skiffs some small inboard tunnel stern skiffs were made with a small Briggs and Stratton gasoline engine for power. Most were about three to five horse power and the larger ones were about 10 to 12 horsepower and pretty speedy.

The small ones were called putt-putts because that's how the engine sounded. A boat builder by the name of Kippler built the first putt-putts for commercial sale. Most were about 16 to 18 feet long and five to six feet wide. Later on Fred Corkill and Sidney Vannoy built the first outboard skiffs for sale. The first ones had a fir plank bottom then later marine plywood bottoms with a wider bow which made for easier trotlines fishing or especially gillnet fishing. There was one game warden for all of Nueces

County and his name was Campbell. At that time the TP&WD was called the Texas Fish and Wildlife Commission. A Sports fishing license cost \$1 and Commercial Fishing license \$2 and Coca-Cola still sold for five cents. No sales tax or added fees to your utility bills.

Both Vannoy and Farley skiffs were excellent for commercial outboard fishing and later Majek made sports boats similar to commercial fishing skiffs. Some of the boat builders have used a Vannoy skiff for a mild to make a fiberglass skiff for sport fishing, one of the being the Majek sports boat. The 18-footer will handle any of the rough water in the Lagoon. Some of the fiberglass skiffs have a small stern tunnel which makes for running the shallow flats of the Lagoon.

On a side note; I have always wondered why some of the large outboard motors cost as much as a car! I have also wondered why Briggs & Stratton never made a large horsepower outboard motor.

PIPOA cont. from A1

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 the 2026 vote, like the 2025 vote, will be conducted through the organization's website ManageCASA.

"We have over three times the number of members registered in ManageCASA as we had the last time," McGinley said this week. "This makes the likelihood of getting a quorum more likely."

Previous to 2025 paper ballots were mailed to members who could also vote by showing up at the annual members meeting, scheduled this year for Saturday, March 28. This year members will have until Tuesday, March 24 to vote online with no voting to be done at the members meeting. The online polls will open on Wednesday, February 25. Paper ballots will be sent only to members for which the PIPOA does not have an email address. 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."

Exactly how that process would work is currently unknown as well as exactly how the board would function beyond the election if no quorum of voting members is reached. McGinley said this week he has asked the PIPOA attorney to advise the board on the subject but so far no determination has been reached.

In prior elections members who attended the annual membership meeting would be provided the opportunity to vote before the start of the meeting, then voting would be halted, votes counted, and winners announced at the conclusion of the meeting as outlined in the PIPOA bylaws. Section 2.01 of the PIPOA bylaws states; "The number of directors of the association shall be seven, and those whose terms shall have expired shall be elected at the annual membership meeting."

Under the new system with no voting at the meeting and paper ballots mailed selectively members can vote either online by following instructions on the Manage CASA website or print out the ballot and deliver it to the PIPOA office in person.

"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. Members may also hand deliver their form to the POA office. The POA staff will not accept worksheets brought in by a third party."

With only three seats not up for election if a voting quorum is not reached the legal question then becomes whether a three-member board is sufficient to call a board meeting at which additional board members could be appointed by the three acting members. The bylaws are silent regarding what constitutes a quorum for a board meeting, requiring legal guidance from the PIPOA attorney. Pending that opinion Section 1.07 of the PIPOA bylaws states: "All membership meetings and board of directors meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order." According to Robert's Rules of Order: "A quorum for a board of directors is a majority of all its members." Whether three members would constitute a "majority of all its members" is the question before the PIPOA attorney. If the answer is no a lack of a quorum in the March 2026 election leaving only three board members in place, one short of the four needed for the seven seats, could leave the board unable to call a board meeting creating legal conundrum. It would also call into question the ability of the three board members, if they are able to call a meeting, to appoint the remaining four members.

State Law, Chapter 209.00592 of the Property Code, states, "Notwithstanding any provision in a dedicatory instrument, any board member whose term has expired must be elected by owners or members of the association." That language, "must be elected" could strip the three remaining board members of the power to appoint members to fill expired terms leading either to moving forward with a three-member board or calling a second election to fill the seats. Either way the organization of the PIPOA board would face unprecedented legal issues since it would mark the first time in the organization's history that failure to reach a quorum of voting members occurred two years in a row.

The deadline for candidates to file for the four seats on the March ballot is Sunday, February 15.



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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin



Dale, Greg Smith, Dr. Brian Gully, and Nick Colosi on Island Moon Live

Memories run together until they all become part of the foggy past. Names and faces and years become a blur as the mind prioritizes the things that we need to remember and things that we can live without I guess. And so it was this week as I tried to remember the origin date of what became a weekly radio show from Doc's Seafood & Steaks each Thursday for the past four years.

It was sometime in early 2018 I think when I got a call from talk radio kingpin Jim Lago to come on his Tuesday morning show to talk about all things Island. Blake Farenthold who later became a co-host of the show was still in Congress and it was just myself and Jim and the manager of the Lexington. In those days the Clear Channel Communications studios out on Tupper Lane on the edge of a cotton field had six sound booths and three local morning radio shows and there was still such a thing as Morning Drive Time and no such thing as podcasts – at least not on a major scale. Jim was a traditional radio disc jockey who had moved over from spinning mounds of sounds and stacks of wax to local talk with the success of Rush Limbaugh and other syndicators. Recalling the history of our local show (more on that later) sent me down a rabbit hole.

Clear Channel

I was well acquainted with Clear Channel. It began in 1972 as San Antonio Broadcasting Company by Lowry Mays and Red McCombs but it was in 1975 that the story took a turn for the legendary. I got this story from two people who were sitting at the table on the fateful night when it all began at a weekly poker game. The story comes from iconic San Antonio sports columnist and sportscaster Dan Cook who I worked with for about fifteen years, first the Express-News and then at KENS TV who was a weekly regular at the poker games.

Both Mays and McCombs were present as well as John Barger, who also told me this story. Barger and Mays were the radio men in the room with Mays able to raise funds from Wall Street while Barger had worked for legendary Texas broadcaster Gordon "The Mad Scott" McLendon in Dallas. Most of what became the radio industry in Texas can be traced back to McLendon. Barger had just moved to San Antonio and somehow the subject of a radio station up for purchase came up (who brought it up first depends on who is telling the story). That radio station was WOAI-a.m. and the exact price is lost to history, but what can be said is that it wasn't much because the money in the poker pot was sufficient to lock it up and Clear Channel Communications was born right there – call it a radio inside straight that turned into a flush.

After seven p.m. the station had a 'clear channel at 1200 on the AM dial and could blast its signal across the country with no other station on that frequency. It was a throwback to XERF that used to broadcast out of Del Rio/Acuna with Wolfman Jack and when the sun went down it was a blowtorch. Barger took over as General Manager and arguably launched the radio talk format that still exists today. I got a lesson from Barger when I went to lunch with him and when they asked him the name on his order he said Twinkle Toes. When the speaker said "Order ready for Twinkle Toes" every head in the place turned...marketing 101.



Tyler Thorsen is always serious

He is now in the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. The first talk show host on the station was a guy named Alan Dale who, at least on the air, was mad at the world. You name it he didn't like it, and as it turned out he had plenty of company around the country.

Clear Channel began expanding, slowly at first, and by the mid-'80s was in about half a dozen markets and that's pretty much where things stood until the mid-1990s when the Telecommunications Act of 1996 came along and everything changed, it became the Wild West. The Act allowed companies to buy up multiple stations in each market and before you could say Radio Monopoly Clear Channel had done just that. Prior to that time most radio stations were locally owned and perennially underfunded and it was peopled by the Johnny Fevers who moved city to city up and down the dial. So when the rules changed and they could suddenly buy more stations none of them had the money to do that... except Clear Channel. Even if they wanted to this was at the end of the takeover phase on Wall Street and any company sitting on ready cash was inviting a hostile takeover. But one of the agreements among the poker club was that none of them would take money out of the business – since none of them needed the money – and so when opportunity knocked to expand they found themselves in a great position. They had also gone public, they had money, and they started buying. By the end of the decade they owned 1,240 radio stations, 41 TV stations, a live entertainment arm which vertically integrated the concert business, and for good measure also had over 750,000 billboards. Instead of an army of Johnny Fevers they had one for the entire country in each of their seven formats and local radio as it had been constructed started to fade. So when I walked into the Clear Channel studios that day I was pleasantly surprised to see that many live radio shows still up and running.

The evolving Island Moon Radio show

Jim and I hit it off as mutual fans of Delbert McClinton and I did his Tuesday show for a couple of years until he retired from Clear Channel. We revived Island Moon Thursdays from a studio in Jim's house then in Blake's house then eventually at Doc's where we have been happy ever since. But as of this week we have been bumped from our Thursday morning time slot by the two stations we were broadcasting on and as of this week we are changing stations and ramping up our Island Moon Live YouTube channel, and the islandmoon.com website where the show will continue to be streamed live. I will have an announcement on our new station and new timeslot soon but we are also adding some additional Island content and some content for audiences outside of this market. I can't say any more at this point because some details have to be worked out but we are looking to move toward an Island network of live products to showcase what happens on this side of the bridge. Radio has changed in the decades since I started working in news and podcasts now dominate the landscape, but terrestrial radio and live streaming are not mutually exclusive and we plan to do both.

It's a small start but it's at least as big as a poker game.



Jay Gardner with Kaylynn Paxson

The SandBox Beach Bar is getting ready to open its doors on the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. It will be the first new construction there since 1983.

Photos by Debbie Noble.



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Nature Notes

Mistletoes

By Evan McGuire



Eastern Mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*) in Northeast Texas

David R. Tribble via Wikimedia Commons

Everyone has heard of mistletoe and its connotations with Christmas, but do you really know what it is? I don't think I really knew what it was until a year or two ago when learning about birds like the Phainopepla, that rely on mistletoe as a primary food source. Watching the mistletoe is a reliable way to see said birds.

Mistletoe is a hemiparasite, meaning that it is a parasitic plant, but it is not completely reliant on its host. They still have green leaves so they still take energy from the sun as well as their host. Typically, they only take water and a small amount of nutrients from their host.

Mistletoe is easiest to see on trees that have lost their leaves in the winter, often you see a clump of waxy green or orange leaves in the middle of the tree. In east Texas and the eastern US, there is only one species that you will probably see: American mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*), which has white flowers and white berries. There are at least 7 other species native to Texas but they are limited to the mountains in far west Texas.

You might be wondering if, as parasites, mistletoes are harmful. It can be complicated, but yes, to the host tree, they can cause stress and can potentially kill branches or weaken the tree to other infections. Often though, mistletoe is not solely responsible for killing trees and can be an indicator of an already vulnerable tree. Once established, mistletoe can be difficult to remove. I personally would welcome the new plant as a food source for the local fauna as opposed to fighting the hemiparasite.

The mistletoes may be harmful to their host, but they provide food and habitat to many animals including birds, mammals, and butterflies. The Great Purple Hairstreak is a butterfly that is reliant on mistletoe as a place to lay its eggs and a food source. Their caterpillars feed exclusively on mistletoe and then, as butterflies, they feed on the nectar of the flowers. Many frugivorous, or fruit-eating birds, will eat mistletoe berries as well. There is even a bird in Australia called the Mistletoebird, which is entirely reliant on mistletoe.

In addition to providing food, the plant can also provide nesting habitat to birds and squirrels. You may find that your local clump of mistletoe could have baby birds



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Evan McGuire is interning at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory this winter. GCBO is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving the birds and their habitats along the entire Gulf Coast, and beyond into their Central and South America wintering grounds.



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Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Sponge Crab

Known for their unusual fashion sense



Jace holding a sponge crab

This week's low tide beachcombing survey revealed one of the coast's most unusual visitors — a sponge crab. At first glance it looked like a waterlogged clump of sponge washed into the wrack line, but closer inspection showed tiny eyes, fuzzy legs, and pinkish red claw tips tucked beneath its disguise.

Sponge crabs belong to a group of crabs best known for their unusual fashion sense. Their back pair of legs are bent upward and backward, unlike most crabs, and are used to grip and hold objects over their bodies. With these modified legs, sponge crabs actively carry pieces of sponge, sea squirts, or other debris like a living umbrella. This cover helps conceal them from predators and may also offer chemical protection, since many sponges taste bad or are mildly toxic.

There are more than 100 species of sponge crabs found worldwide, mostly in warm and temperate oceans. Only a few occur in the Gulf and along the Texas coast, which makes finding one on the beach a rare and exciting event. Most sponge crabs live

offshore on sandy or muddy bottoms and are more active at night, spending daylight hours tucked beneath their portable camouflage.

Despite their soft and fuzzy appearance, sponge crabs are true crabs with a hard shell hidden beneath dense hairlike bristles that trap sediment and help their disguise blend in even better. They typically live around three to five years, assuming they avoid predators and rough seas.

People do eat sponge crabs in some parts of the world, but they are not commonly harvested and are rarely considered table fare. Sometimes the beach delivers surprises that reward a second look, especially when a sponge turns out to have legs. 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).



Upclose of sponge crab

Around cont. from A1

calendar and attract locals and Winter Texans alike. It is more than one "fry" but we couldn't decide if the plural should be "frys" or "fries." Neither seemed right so we went with the singular and will have the dates here as they approach.

Where are the Moons?

The arrival of Winter Texans has led to the most asked question of the week *Around The Island* — where are the copies of the Island Moon? Given the free cost of the paper many readers pick up extra copies to spread around to friends and readers who go to their usual pickup spot and find nothing but empty racks. We restock almost every day this time of year but still have a hard time staying ahead of demand. We understand the problem and are doing the best we can so bear with us. You can also find it online on Facebook at theislandmoonnews.com or at islandmoon.com on our website which is currently undergoing reconstruction so that we can make our fifteen-plus years of archives available to readers.

Island Moon Live

Don't forget to tune in the Island Moon Thursday show on the Island Moon Live YouTube channel from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. each Thursday. We cover all things Island and expect to move to a new radio home in the next few weeks.

That's all for now everybody, stay warm and we'll see you at the Barefoot Mardi Gras Beach Parade — which will also be streamed live on Island Moon Live on Saturday, February 28. As a reminder Beach Parking Permits are required at the parade. We encourage you to avoid clichés like the plague and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



The Art of Island Life

The Art of Self-Care

By Melissa Mitchell

Life happens, and we learn to adapt. And much of the time, many of us become very good at taking care of everyone else.

We show up for family, for work, for friends who need a listening ear. We juggle schedules. We remember birthdays, appointments, school events, and who needs what—often before they even ask. And while there's a quiet pride in that kind of caretaking, there's also a gentle reminder this time of year: we can't pour from an empty cup.

As Mel Robbins puts it, "You don't have to change your whole life to take care of yourself. You just have to start treating yourself like someone you're responsible for."

Her words—and her work—have always resonated with me because they're practical, honest, and rooted in real life—not perfection.

That's one of the reasons I've always loved Galentine's Day.

It isn't about romance. It's about connection.

It's about choosing friendship, making room for laughter, and remembering that self-care doesn't always have to be serious or heavy to matter. Sometimes it looks like sitting across from someone who knows your stories. Sometimes it's a shared laugh or an unhurried conversation that reminds you you're not doing life alone.

On the Island, we're especially good at this—finding reasons to gather, even when life feels busy or stretched thin. We understand that community isn't something extra—it's essential.

A Pause Worth Taking

Friday, February 13th at 5pm, we'll be celebrating Galentine's Day at Evoke. If you joined us last year, you already know the feel—easygoing, welcoming, and full of good energy. It's not about rushing in and out. It's about giving yourself permission to enjoy the moment—sharing conversation, playing a few lighthearted games, and letting the weight of the week fall away for a bit. General admission is free, but we do have limited space and limited tickets available. We ask that you register online so we can plan accordingly—it helps us prepare for the event.

Mimosas will be available for everyone to enjoy, and if you'd like a few extra perks, you can purchase a Bubbles Pass in advance with the events link on our website at evokebymelissa.com. The Bubbles Pass includes admission, a swag bag, unlimited bubbles, participation in our Galentine's games, and entry into prize drawings and giveaways—be sure to show your ticket when you enter to receive your bag. As part of our Galentine's celebration, one lucky guest—drawn from our Bubbles Pass ticket



holders—will receive a luxury self-care bundle. A reminder that taking care of yourself isn't indulgent. It's necessary. And sometimes a little surprise joy is exactly what we need. Beyond the bubbles, games, and laughter, there's something else I hope this gathering offers—a reminder to give yourself a little love and a whole lot of grace.

Why These Moments Matter

"Self-care is not a reward you give yourself after everything is done. It's how you make sure you can keep showing up." —Mel Robbins

We spend so much time caring for others that we forget self-care doesn't have to be elaborate. It can be as simple as allowing yourself to enjoy a moment without feeling guilty for it. Those small pauses—the ones we don't always plan for—are often the ones that refill us the most. Finding balance. Choosing connection. Allowing joy in ordinary moments, especially when they're shared with people who make us feel seen and supported.

So plan to stop in and take a pause. It's about giving yourself permission to simply enjoy the evening. Bring a friend. Or come solo and leave with a few new ones. Let yourself enjoy the bubbles, the laughter, and the reminder that you matter, too.

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



5-7PM
Feb 13th

Free Admission
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14646 COMPASS DRIVE, SUITE 10

Barefoot Mardi Gras Fat Friday Kickoff party at the Waterline

Photos by Debbie Noble



Outgoing King and Queen John and Millie Stokes



Newly Crowned King and Queen Rod Lewis and Debbie Wall



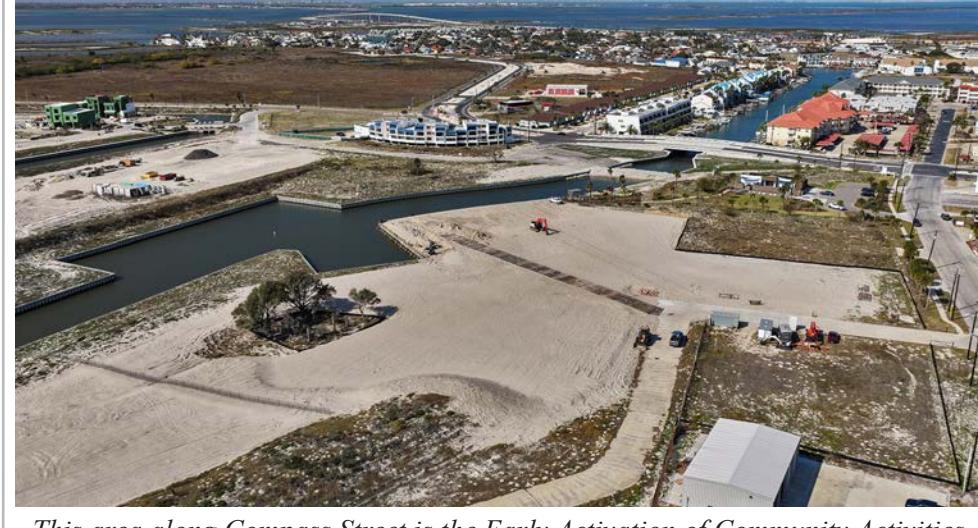
Whitecap NPI cont. from A1

"We are moving forward with Phase I of the project," Johnson said this week. "Our plan is to keep moving forward with Phase II to coordinate with the opening of the canal to water flow."

Johnson said the Whitecap NPI developers are also in discussions with restaurant and bar operators to open a facility at their site now under construction next to the sales office on Compass Street called the Early Activation Destination Center

"We hope to have Phase I of that up and running by midyear," he said. "We want to start generating some foot traffic with a bar or restaurant operation and plan to include retail space moving forward."

He said the area will include new boat slips on the adjacent canal to provide boat access for the site.



This area along Compass Street is the Early Activation of Community Activities Center. It will have a Restaurant and Bar, and later Retail Space.

It is part of the Whitecap NPI Development

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GILIG

History Cont. from A1

and found me beside the sawfish with a cane pole – no net in sight – they assumed I had caught it on the pole. I didn't enlighten them, and this tall fish story was told about Corpus Christi for years. The sawfish, I regret to say, became food for the packs of coyotes that roamed the wild stretches of Big Shell.

We seldom saw other human beings there, but coyotes growled close to our shack at night, and in the early mornings and evenings we saw them on the beach searching for fish which were the mainstay of their diet. I learned by experience just how clever and crafty they were. I have seen them fishing in the surf for mullet and catching them! Many times I saw these lean, hungry, animals watching me from over the rim of the dunes. Once I left the beach, they would sneak down and pick up my discards. Sitting on the porch that I had added to our shack, one early morning after I had set out my trotlines, I saw two big coyotes sling down to the water's edge and begin dragging one of the lines in to shore. I was too amazed and curious to move. They pulled the line all the way in; then bit the fish off the hooks, and trotted with them back to their habitat in the dunes. Many persons doubted the truth of this, but I saw the same thing happen time and again. One night Viola nudged me awake. "There's something in the kitchen," she whispered. Listening, I heard the faint rattle of the tin plates we had left on the table. I got up and edged toward the kitchen. The moonlight streamed through the open door, and outlined the gaunt, gray form of a coyote. He was on the table licking up the remains of our supper. He sensed my presence and leaped for the door, but slipped on a greasy plat and somersaulted into the center of the room. I gave a swift kick to the astonished animal and sent it rolling down the back steps. Tail down, it trotted up a nearby dune and sat on a nearby dune and sat on its haunches barking with venom. As I looked closer, I saw the forms of four of five puppies, joining in the harsh chorus. They continued to bark until I got my shotgun; then they vanished into the night.

During a big run of redfish one night, I caught ninety, averaging in weight from five to fifteen pounds. I kept them on stringers alive in the surf until I was too tired to fish any more; then, nearing midnight, I started to ice them down in the pickup. There was no ice. I hastily loaded the fish and hauled them back of the dunes where I put them in a pond. We could net them the next morning easily, and hurry them into the market. This catch would bring seventy-five or eighty dollars which we needed for supplies.

Satisfied with the night's work, I tumbled into bed and slept until dawn. With the first light of morning, I hurried to the pond. I stared in amazement at what I saw: Scattered around the bank of the pond were the headless carcasses of the ninety redfish. The coyotes had outwitted me. Their tracks formed a networked around the pond and trailed into the sand hills in every direction. They ate a hearty supper; but what were we going to eat?

I drove into town that day for a new supply of ice which was all I could buy. The next night the redfish were still running – so we got our groceries and gasoline after all. Coyotes weren't the only problem we had to cope with on the beach. In any season, but especially during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, the Gulf might change from peace to violence. We lived in the Devil's Elbow, the bend of the long arm of padre. It was strewn with the accumulated wreckage of the years, from shrimp boats and freighters to Spanish galleons dating back

to the time of Cortez. Salvage from these boats helped to improve our daily living conditions, and some old coins and jewelry I found at the site of one of the wrecks made interesting additions to our treasure trove of beachcomberings.

Some of the castoffs of the waves were unusual and astonishing. One afternoon Viola and I stopped to examine a five-gallon can that had washed up on the beach. I pried the lid off with my fishing knife. The can was filled with clean, white lard. We put it into the pickup, and before the day was over, we had salvaged more than a hundred cans. There was a lot more damaged cans that we left lying on the beach. The Coast Guard told us later that a Mexican freighter had been torn to pieces by a sudden tumult in the Gulf. She was carrying a cargo of lard; it made a profitable load of salvage for us and a grease bath for the beach. For along time after that the sand was saturated with lard. The island coyotes grew fat from feasting on it. Even the sand crabs acquired a new look of sleekness.

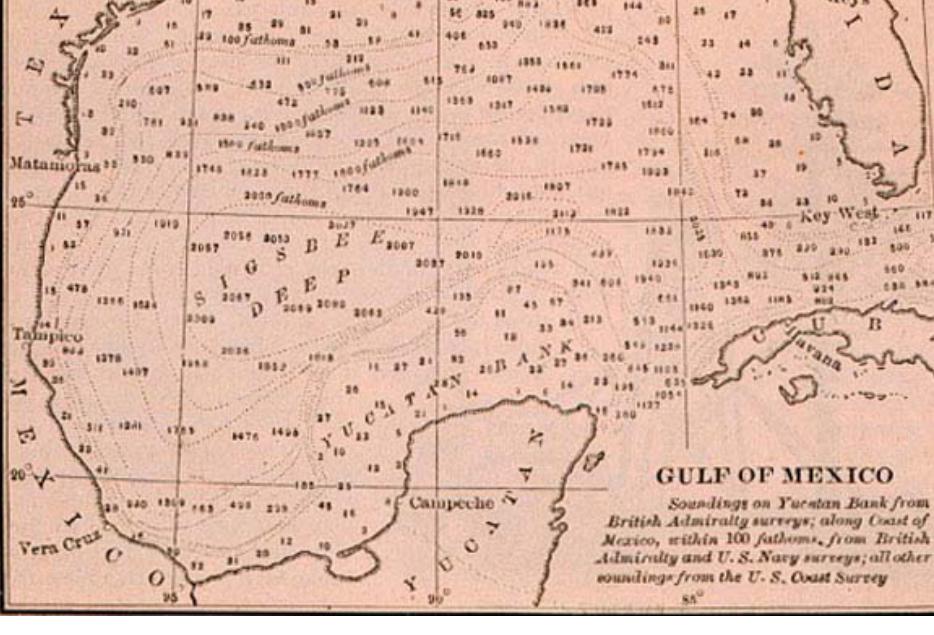
It was about the same time when the British smuggler, "I'm Alone," was shelled and sunk by a Coast Guard cutter in Sigsbee's Deep near the southern tip of Padre. The ship was spotted off New Orleans where she expected to land her contraband cargo of whiskey. The cutter chased her along the coast, finally closing on her. The captain refused to surrender. He jettisoned the cargo before the Coast Guard cutter blasted the ship full of holes.

I received word by the island grapevine to be on the lookout for the liquor, so I started down the beach in the pickup, searching the incoming waves and the tide line for bottles of the amber elixir. I didn't see anything that looked like whiskey, but noticed a full gunnysack embedded in the sand. I could check on it later, so I moved on, but when I saw several more similar sacks, I stopped to investigate. The sack I opened contained a dozen sealed tin cans. I pried the lid from one of the cans. Inside, was a bottle of "Old Hospitality" Bourbon whiskey. During the day, I salvaged one hundred and ten sacks. I stashed this horde behind the dunes, filled a duffle bag with seventy-two bottles and headed for Port Isabel.

The ferry boat took me across the channel. The captain's suspicions were aroused by the weight of the duffle bag. I had to explain what I had found and make a gift of a few bottles. It is enough to say that I disposed of the remainder in Port Isabel.

When I returned to the island, a comforting feeling of cash in my pockets and the prospect of more, I met the captain of the ferry boat and one of his crew. They were driving a pickup with the bed loaded with the bulging gunnysacks. I followed their tracks, as they had, from all appearances, followed mine, to my cache in the dunes. Of all my loot there wasn't even a bottle left! For weeks the beach was combed by thirsty men all the way from Port Isabel to Port Aransas. At Port Aransas, one boatman got more of the "drink" than he counted on. He spotted a sack and headed his craft toward it. As he reached over the side for the bobbing, burlap bag, he tumbled into the water. He was five miles from shore, and his boat was circling away. He kept afloat by using the liquor as a life-buoy. The boat swung in a circle, finally coming back to him. He grasped the side and struggled aboard. Evidently, the thoughts that raced through his brain as he floundered in the water, with drowning almost a certainty, soothed him greatly; for when he got back to town, he sold his boat and other possessions and move inland.

Next issue: Living through the hurricanes.



Soundings of Gulf of Mexico showing Sigsbee Deep

Public Hearings for the Island Mobility Plan

On February 4, 2026, the Planning Commission will hold an additional public hearing on the Island Mobility Plan before making their final recommendation to the City Council.

On February 10, 2026, the City Council will hold a public hearing on the Island Mobility Plan, followed by the first reading of the ordinance to adopt the Plan. The second and

final reading of the ordinance to adopt the Plan will be on February 17, 2026.

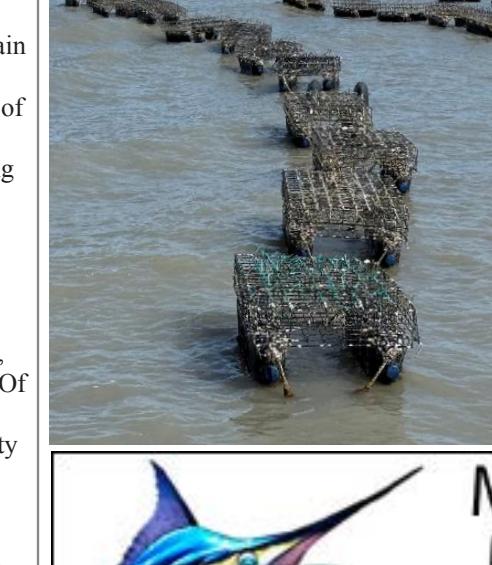
The Island Mobility Plan establishes recommendations for a comprehensive transportation network that connects residential neighborhoods to activity centers by identifying critical routes for walking, bicycling, golf carts, and water transportation.

Oysters Cont. from A1

called mariculture, a program that was established in Texas in the summer of 2020. It is the ninth permitted oyster farm in Texas and the first to operate out of Port Aransas.

The family business is owned and operated by Bill and Amelia Strieber. The family's deep appreciation for the coast's beauty and bounty inspired them to create a sustainable way to give back to the environment that they love. Clear Water Oysters is the culmination of that vision.

Clear Water Oyster Gardens was established to take advantage of optimal conditions while protecting the environment. The site offers ideal salinity levels and water temperatures, creating the perfect environment for their oysters to thrive. With roughly one million oysters currently under cultivation, their operation embodies sustainable aquaculture practices that benefit both the ecosystem and the local community. The family's love of the ocean and seafood shines through in their signature oysters,



Clear Water Selects and Clear Water Petites. We tried both varieties while onboard the boat and they were the best oysters that we have had in many years.

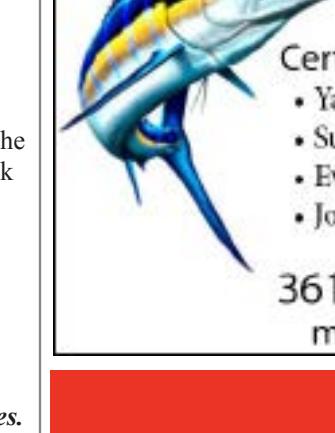
Bill and Amelia are joined in the business by their daughter, Hannah, who manages Clear Water Oysters' social media presence, and their son, Will, a chef with a passion for showcasing the culinary potential of oysters. Together with their team of dedicated oyster farmers, the Strieber family works to produce exceptional oysters that reflect their love of the ocean. When you eat Clear Water Oysters, you're not just enjoying a delicious, fresh product, you are also supporting a family's passion and their mission to help protect the Texas Coast. Clear Water Oysters are served at several Coastal Bend restaurants and are also sold directly to consumers.

Your chance to try them is coming up at the Oyster Roundup on February 28th at Water Street restaurants downtown.

The Oyster Farm Tours go out from the Dolphin Docks in Port Aransas on the first Sunday of every month. Private tours are also available. To book a tour of the gardens go to scarletladydolphincruise.com/sip-and-shuck-oyster-cruise/ or you can contact Bill and Amelia at 361-416-0915



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Chris and Marty Killian at Big Ben in London.



Mary Callander, winter Texan from Minnesota at her cabin reading the Island Moon last Summer

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Bob Hall Pier was destroyed almost 6 years ago.

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6 years. The last time Bob Hall Pier was destroyed, it was rebuilt in less than 3 years.

There is no reason it should have taken this long.

Our County Commissioners, Republican and Democrat, have bungled this from the start.

This is how our County Commission voted on the Pier, in order:

1. Voted to rebuild Pier (April 2022)
2. Voted to build second floor onto Pier's restaurant (Sept 2022)
3. Voted not to build second floor onto restaurant (March 2023)
4. Voted not to rebuild restaurant at all (Sept 2023)
5. Voted to rebuild restaurant (Feb 2024)
6. Voted to delay rebuilding restaurant (Jan 2025)

This is not leadership. It's indecision and inability to solve a problem. For Pete's sake, it's a pier, not a 70-story skyscraper. It ain't that hard. We want solutions, not excuses.

None of the incumbents are competent enough to hold their office. They may be good at some things, but governing isn't one of them. Let's give someone else a chance, cause these folks had their shot and failed.

We need Commissioners who can make decisions and solve problems. These can't. Vote for anyone but the incumbents. They can't lead and won't follow, so it's time for them to get out of the way.

VOTE AGAINST:

Brent "NO PIER" Chesney

Connie Scott

Joe Gonzalez

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Ok folks, sorry for pushing the update on the Artificial Reefing Program workshop that was held a few weeks ago up in Galveston. We got updates on the nearshore reef program, rigs-to-reef program, and the monitoring efforts that are being done by the Texas Parks and Wildlife. We received updates on the permitting process from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (yes, takes forever), invasive species (such as lionfish), and the status on the Sabine (High Island) reefs, all the way down to the Rio Grande Valley. Good stuff!

One of the more interesting things (besides that most of the barracuda at the Flower Gardens have ciguatera), is that they've put down these acoustic receivers and are tagging fish with a new tag. They showed a diagram of a lionfish that was tagged and staying close to one area for a couple of weeks, and then suddenly the tag pinged the next day at a rig location 25 miles away. Evidently eaten by a shark! Some other fun tidbits were that they are going to reef the offshore spar Nancen this year out by East Breaks, and they will be doubling the permit for our Packery Channel reef over the next year.

Word on the street is that the Corps is dredging Mansfield Pass down the beach, and it is closed off from the 55-mile marker south to the channel. They do this every decade or so and use a hydraulic dredge to pump the sand out of the channel onto the beach. Sometimes some interesting things make it through the hoppers, but it's been dredged so many times over the years, I don't see any silver reales popping up. I'm sure the Seashore staff is down there monitoring it daily hoping to find Davy Jones' treasure. At least Yarborough is still open last I checked.

I won't expound too much on the Island Mobility Plan this week folks; I think it finally got enough attention that it's moving forward, but not as fast as we would like. TxDOT staff recommendations will be to pull the project out of the 2020-2024 plans

and put it in the 2028-2032 plans. I was hoping that we could get this going sooner than later, but that's what happens sometimes. TxDOT will be the ones who design it according to their roadway manuals, but it might look a lot like what we have in the Island Mobility Plan (see attached excerpt, from the Island Mobility Plan that can be found at <https://creatingcc.com/island-mobility-plan>) except strike out where it says "golf carts" and write in "electric bikes."

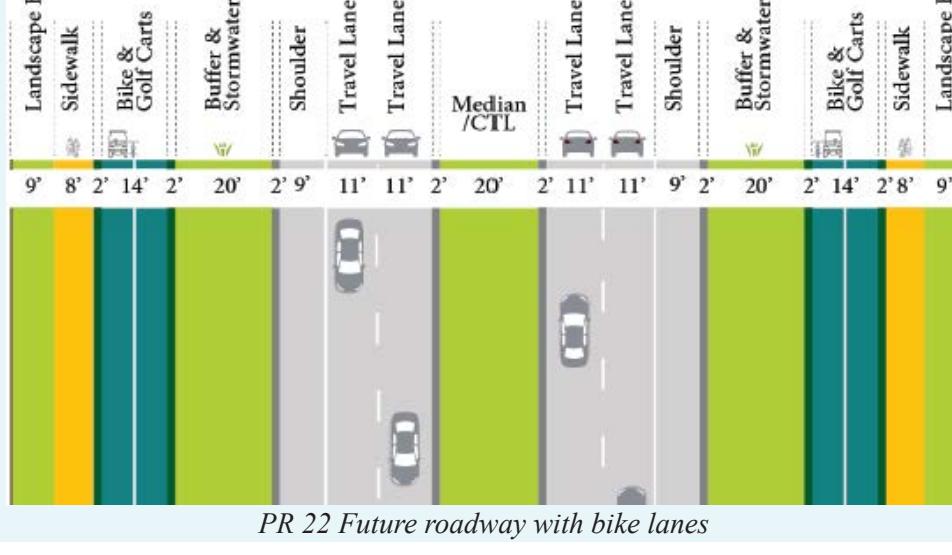
What we have in the plan shows landscape buffers, pedestrian sidewalks, a bike lane, and a stormwater buffer outside of the existing lanes on both sides of PR 22. That would be awesome and open up a lot of Island businesses and retail that currently the only way to get there is by vehicle. Hopefully there will also be some future connections to neighborhoods so people can get on and off the tracks.

One thing that will also be popping up is something that we have talked about for years: dropping the speed limit on PR 22. While there will be some grumbling from a few folks (mostly commuters), this is something that needs to happen. There are constant wrecks at the Aquarius light when you first get on the Island, plus at the Jackfish intersection and Highway 361 lights. The speed limit needs to come down to around 45 mph. In order to get that done, the city will have to send a letter to TxDOT and request that a traffic study be done to lower the speed limit, and then they will complete the study. The study will likely not be conclusive one way or the other, but the city can then request that TxDOT lower the speed limit. We need to keep our Katzenjammers safe, folks.

Well folks, the city Parks and Recs got the grant application for the Packery Channel boat ramp repairs submitted to the TPWD this week. Now we cross our fingers and hope that it gets funded and engineered and designed and permitted and built before summer. Yeah right. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks

FUTURE ROW 200'

Aquarius to Sea Pines



PR 22 Future roadway with bike lanes



Vermilion Flycatcher By Britt Thompson

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Backwater Adventures

Slow it All Down



By Joey Farah



This is the time of year in fishing and Island Life that we all need to remember to SLOW IT DOWN! Winter temperatures have pushed all bait sources to retreat to deep water and/or soft muddy bottoms to be ready for any drastic cold water event. The colder waters force small baitfish to slow down and move at a crawl. At the same time, larger gamefish are moving slow and very precisely to save energy. They creep into zones where slightly warmer water flows off of the shallows into mid depth areas. Catching the flow of warm water, maybe just one degree warmer or less! They feel the difference and so do we! The spring crowds are not yet landing on the Island, and the visitors from the north are not frantic anymore as they have settled into ISLAND TIME as well. We are at a special time of year where here along our thin stretch of sand, things all slow down. Anglers and Islanders will do well to cast their lines out one strike at a time, pay close attention to every dance of the rod tip. Become the slow moving baitfish, stunned by the cold, and play the victim right in front of a giant TROPHY TROUT!

It seems that the more intent some anglers get at catching that fish if a lifetime, the harder they throw, the faster they reel in and cast back out to sea. Each time that lure hits the water, everything around it hears it break the surface. This time of year bait is not popping everywhere, splashing down around them. It's not natural for them to hear that much noise. Place each cast to a spot, work from different angles, and imagine bringing your baits across a school of fish that are all smart and watching intently your lures movements. Last week I watched a young angler catch fish over and over again from his boat. We were also fishing the same area but a different piece of bottom structure. He was catching quality mature fish at first but he was in a rush. Over and over again he casted and caught, before too long all he was landing was young smaller gamefish. He returned each day and before too long that school of gamefish were smart, and had sore lips! I could see them on my sonar but they would not bite. Take your time, especially when winter schools of fish are stationary and contempt to stay resting in one spot close to their food source.

The most mature and oldest of gamefish will move into and move small fish out of those best and warmer zones. Finding the exact place where these big fish are choosing to be is an art, and sometimes just an educated guess or feeling. Getting yourself to slow down can be the biggest of obstacles to overcome. Slow moving suspending lures are popular this time of year, Corkys, suspending hard baits, and lightly weighted soft plastics all have their place in late winter as top choices. Winter colors include white, bone, pinks, purple, and natural colors. These are all cool to cold colors on the temperate color spectrum. Hit summer colors work at times but these are the time tested winter favorites of me and many old salts.

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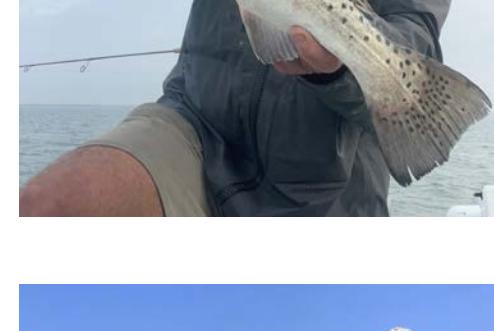
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February and March can provide plenty of fun if you know what you are doing. This Photo was from early March last year.



By Chris Jordan

By midmorning last Friday, the van was loaded up and I was ready to depart beautiful downtown Port Aransas. The proprietor of a game ranch near Beeville had reached out a few days before to ask if I was available to come cook for his friends and family over the weekend. I don't often have a weekend open at the last minute, but the chef business is a little slow on The Coast in January.

There were going to be only twelve people, so I was flying solo. No sous, no prep cook, no dishwasher, no server... well, that's not quite accurate: I would fill all of those roles. This necessitated my early arrival by noon to start prepping for dinner. A fajita bar with all the trimmings is simple work but there's a lot of it: beef skirt, chicken thighs, shrimp, beans, rice, chile con queso, sour cream, pico de gallo, chips, salsa, grated cheese, and so on.

This ranch was relatively close to Beeville at some dozen miles or so. A short drive down a county road off of Highway 59 brought me to an automatic gate which opened with a code. Sometimes once I'm on the ranch itself, there's still a lot of driving to do. I don't ask how big the ranches are as that's impolite *prima facie*. After a bit, a few outbuildings appeared, and then some more, and then some more, and then a bunch of heavy equipment under scattered shed roofs dotted a clearing. Wildlife habitat management involves clearing dense brush — among many other things — so it's not unusual to come across a bulldozer. Or a grader. Or a backhoe. Or all three plus a couple of tractors, as was the case in this instance.

Of Bardominiums and midcentury modern

The structures that house the folks on these ranches vary greatly in form and age. Some are odes to classical architecture. Some are a quaint centenary-plus hodgepodge of necessity. Some even — almost unbelievably — are midcentury modern time capsules. But when the dwellings are relatively new, they almost always sit squarely in that current architectural epoch known as bardominiumism. And such was the case at this beautiful ranch just over an hour's drive from Port Aransas.

My gracious host gave me a tour of the main bardominium. He pointed out the well-appointed kitchen, the various amenities, and the places the hunters would likely congregate for meals. Next, I was escorted to The Man Cave where I would be quartered. And indeed, it had all the hallmarks of a proper man cave — except for not being underground, of course. The busts of myriad taxidermied beasts adorned the walls like ghosts peeking in from the next room. The main features of the living space — listed here in order of ascending size — were overstuffed leather recliners, a television, and a bar. Sleeping at game ranches — when it is thought of at all — is considered nothing more than necessity. There was a loft upstairs: sparsely appointed with nothing more than three twin beds. The next morning I would be grateful for the one I slept in because it was made from the most firm memory foam I have ever encountered. I left my overnight bag there and returned to the main lodge to get dinner on.

That suspiciously firm memory foam bed was the bee's knees, let me tell you. I slept like the dead. And good thing, too, because Saturday was going to be one of those three-meal days for me.



Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Beeville, Texas

The Quail Slayers

The meals

Some sportspersons want to eat before they go out for the morning hunt. What that means for me is I've got to get crackin' before the crack of dawn. Not the case for this casual bunch. They wanted a leisurely breakfast at 8:30 and planned to pursue quail at ten o'clock. I was to serve the guys hashed browns, bacon, sausage patties, and eggs to order. I put out a big plate of scrambled eggs to begin with and that satisfied all but three of the fellas that wanted a couple over easy. Breakfast was an easy clean-up, leaving plenty of time to prep for lunch at 1 PM.

We didn't serve chicken tortilla soup all the time at Tacorama, but we did it often enough to have developed a damn fine recipe, and that's all these guys asked of me for lunch on Saturday. I take my time with this soup, searing seasoned chicken thighs to start and building structured layers of flavor, aroma, and umami each step of the way.

The hunters returned en masse and were absolutely ebullient, each and every one of them. They had bagged an incredible sixty-two quail in short order between breakfast and lunch. An audible was called just as I was putting out the soup: could I please make shrimp fried rice from last night's leftovers? Yes, I can. It was a mighty fine idea and a great companion to the soup.

After lunch, I ran into town to pick up a couple of things at the H-E-B. I don't always expect much from a small-town H-E-B (I'm looking at you, Falfurrias), but this one was fantastic! As good or better than the average city-slicker store. When in Beeville, it is a must to gaze upon the Art Deco glory of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company building. The Atlanta-based architectural firm Pringle & Smith designed an adaptable structure for Coke called The Model 3A. There are several still standing across the country, though none are in use — and absolutely none, I assure you — are in this pristine state of conservation.

Back at the ranch, I was greeted with the astonishing news that they had got another sixty-something quail after lunch. Oh, boy!

Dinner was kicked off with a snack board of various Italian charcuterie, Le Fromager, Gruyère, toun, hummus, Spanish chorizo, some chèvre I mashed roasted garlic and chive into, and a variety of crackers. Caesar salad was next. If you take your time with your Caesar, there is a distinct return on investment. Core the leaves, always tearing by hand rather than cutting: a knife cuts through cell walls and those now-dead romaine cells turn brown in a hurry. Make your best dressing and croutons from scratch and BY ALL MEANS PLEASE USE REAL PARM: Parmigiano-Reggiano — because nothing else will do.

The main dish was chicken piccata, garlic-basil potatoes au gratin, and steamed broccoli.

The boys — being beyond both satiated by me and satisfied by themselves — had their after-dinner drinks and then retired.

I did the same ... eventually. Upon return to The Man Cave, the ménagerie de la mort and I enjoyed some Bordeaux, leftover cheese, and stale crackers. We all wondered — with a sort of quiet, taxidermied envy — if there would ever be a quail among us.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Dotson's Note: *Flag football is a variant of gridiron football (American football or Canadian football depending on location) where, instead of tackling players to the ground, the defensive team must remove a flag or flag belt from the ball carrier («deflagging») to end a down. In flag football, contact is limited between players. The sport has a strong amateur following with several national and international competitions each year sponsored by various associations but is most popularly played in America where it was invented. The international governing body for the sport is the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) with the International Woman's Flag Football Association (IWFFA) governing the women's game. Flag football will be a discretionary event for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, the first time any gridiron football code has been a full part of an Olympic program. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for many of the facts and photos contained in this report.*

Flag Football Game At The University Of Texas At Austin

The best available records to date point to the early 1940s during World War II as the sport's starting point. The game began as a recreational sport created for American military personnel to help them stay fit but was designed in a way that would help prevent them from becoming injured during wartime. At the time it was called «Touch and Tail football», which then became «flag football» after the war ended.

The first known recorded history of flag football can be traced to Fort Meade, Maryland, USA, which is now generally accepted as the sport's birthplace. The first national flag football organization, the National Touch Football League (NTFL), was formed in the 1960s in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1971, the league has had a national championship game.

Arizona teachers Porter Wilson and Norman Adams invented flag-a-tag belts and flags which are the template for the flags used in the game today.

Following increased concerns of concussions and CTE in American football in the 2000s and 2010s alongside a decline in Youth American Football participation during the same period, the NFL has spent considerable resources in promoting Flag Football as a competitive alternative to Tackle football for men and women. Efforts by the league related to this include the creation of the NFL Flag which sponsors youth flag football leagues in the United States. Flag Football games are being played at the Pro Bowl Games. The NFL has also announced and approved a future professional flag football league for men and women, sponsored the sports inclusion in the 2022 World Games, was involved in its push to be included in the 2028 Summer Olympics, and in a partnership with the NAIA helped adding flag football as a varsity sport for female student-athletes.

Basic rules

The specific rules of flag football vary widely by league, though all share in common their replication of the rules of traditional American football with tackling replaced by flag-pulling.

Traditional American football rules are often eliminated or modified to reflect the more recreational nature of the game, the desire to avoid physical contact and injury, and the generally smaller number of participating players per side.

In a standard game of flag football, the match is played in two halves. Time length is determined by the league being played. The clock only stops for injuries,

Flag Football



half-time and timeouts. Most leagues have 10 players per team, 5 on offense and 5 on defense, there is no punting team for flag football.



Above, Flag football is sometimes played on sand.

Variations

Because there is no dominant sanctioning organization for the sport, the game has mutated into many variations: 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, and 4 players on each side; co-ed or single-gender; with kicking and punting and with point-after conversions (including some with 1, 2, and 3 point tries) or without; and field sizes that vary from full Canadian Football League (CFL) size, National Football League (NFL) size (120 yards long by 53 1/3 yards wide), to fields a third that size.

An important distinction is whether linemen are allowed to catch passes («Eligible Linemen») or, as in the NFL / CFL, are not allowed to do so («Ineligible Linemen»). Flag (and touch) football may also be divided into “contact” or “non-contact”, depending on whether or not blocking is allowed; if allowed, blocking is usually restricted to the chest.

The ability or inability of the quarterback to advance the ball past the line of scrimmage (LOS) by running is another rule subject to variation by the league.

The sport is also played on surfaces other than a traditional grass football field, including on sand beaches; beach flag football has previously featured as a discipline at the Asian Beach Games.

IFAF Flag Football World Championship

In July 2022, the National Football League (NFL) and the IFAF partnered on a bid for flag football to be included as an optional event during the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The NFL had sponsored the inclusion of flag football as an invitational event during that month's 2022 World Games. The NFL's executive VP of football operations Troy Vincent stated that the sport was «the future of American football», as it was inclusive and had fewer barriers to access. Flag football was shortlisted as one of nine sports advancing to the next phase of the bid process. In October 2023, the LA organizing committee proposed the inclusion of flag football as an event, which was officially approved at 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at their session in Mumbai, India, in October 2023.

Dotson's Other Note: *Flag football has been contested at the World Games, a multi-sport event featuring sports and disciplines not currently contested at the Olympics, since the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama. The 2022 World Games featured men's and women's tournaments, which were won by the United States and Mexico respectively. Flag football returned for the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China; only a women's tournament was held.*

To Be Continued



Show us your stuff!

Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com





Gene's Corner

Pickleball revisited

Youth and strength can sometimes be overcome with trickery and deception

By Gene Saegert

Because of the great interest now in pickleball, I am re-running an old pickleball article from my first two weeks of playing pickleball. Since I wrote this article the interest in pickleball has fairly exploded. Here is the old article below and after this old article I will touch on new insights that I have on the game. Here is the article:

I have to admit, I am in a pickle about pickleball. Wikipedia states when it was invented (1965) and who invented it. I am ok with that because, that is cut and dried. I am not convinced however about the name pickleball. Here is my take on that. The ball used in pickleball is similar to the old wiffleball. It is around the same size as a tennis ball but full of holes. I even went so far as to painting one green, but it still did not look like a pickle. Oh well I guess I am ok that is what it is. The fact of the matter is that it is truly a fun game. It has recently become a national craze, not unlike the Hula Hoop craze from the old days. I had not even heard of it until around 8 months ago when my family introduced me to it. I was skeptical until I had played a few games and then wow! Now I am addicted to the game. For those unfamiliar with the game it is played on a 20' x 30' court. It has traits of Tennis and Badminton, not as trying as tennis but faster paced than badminton but great exercise! The rules are a little tricky at first but understandable after a few games. There is a portion of the court that is called "the kitchen" (Ironically that is where pickles are usually kept) that can get contentious and heated. Which naturally brings to mind the old saying "If you can't stand the heat.....well you know the rest. Sorry couldn't help throwing that in that is just my nature. Yet I digress. This is truly a family oriented game that appeals to all ages and in our group we range from 8 to 82 years of age and all ages in between. We usually play at the Rockport ISD tennis court complex which has several dedicated courts for pickle ball and several tennis courts that are lined off also for pickle ball. You can get two pickleball courts on every tennis court. Because of the growing popularity there is a complex in Florida that has 43 dedicated professional pickleball courts. Many RV Parks in our area are add-

ing pickleball courts to their complexes as an additional draw and many senior citizens as well as others are taking advantage of it. Equipment is available now at all Walmart and Academy stores at reasonable prices, making it an easy sport to get into. As for me? I am 82 and loving it! Look forward to seeing you on the court (and maybe in the "kitchen").

After playing pickleball for some time now, here are some of my new thoughts from my experiences.

What I realize now is there are many shades of pickleball players and they all have their place in the sport!

There are serious dyed in the wool players who play strictly by the rules and they just want to compete and win like pros. Then there are family players of all ages who play just for fun. I am in this category. In my family we are in an age group from nine years old to 83 years old and all ages in between. We enjoy playing for fun and of course we do enjoy winning once in a while but our goal is, exercise, entertainment and just a fun time. I personally am a widower with more years behind me than in front of me and fun and fellowship is my ultimate goal, and it keeps me on the right track. Now don't get me wrong, I have no problem with those who are diehard, serious players who like to compete and win, and that is a good thing. I have been there before. I play sometimes with a group that like to play by the rules and I enjoy playing with them also. But my favorite is those in my group that just play for fun and enjoyment. We do try to play by the rules but sometimes fall short but overlook it. Most of us seniors are in that group. The very old and the very young just need some slack while they are learning so that they have fun and do not get discouraged. Remember the elders and understand that we didn't get here by being stupid! We do win sometimes. And here is a word of advice. Don't sell us old codgers short. Youth and strength can sometimes be overcome with trickery and deception, and we have years of experience with that.

Thought for the day: What did they call electric eels before there was electricity?



The Islands pickleball group

Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Nolles

Island Real Estate Market

showing momentum

Three homes sold this week, 14 under contract

As we move further into February, the Padre Island real estate market continues to show encouraging momentum as we head into the first quarter of the year. While we are still awaiting the official January numbers from our local MLS—which are expected to be released next week—the activity over the past seven days alone gives us a strong preview of what's to come.

Within the last week, three homes have successfully closed on Padre Island, all selling in the \$400,000 to \$600,000 price range. This segment of the market remains particularly active, reflecting continued demand for primary residences, second homes, and investment properties alike. Buyers are clearly responding to improved conditions, and sellers who are pricing strategically are seeing solid results.

In addition to recent closings, The Island currently has 14 properties under contract (pending), a strong indicator of buyer confidence and ongoing market velocity. Pending contracts are one of the most important

metrics to watch early in the year, as they often signal where closed sales numbers are heading in the weeks ahead. This level of activity suggests that momentum is building steadily rather than stagnating.

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2025, the shift is noticeable. Late last year brought slower activity as buyers and sellers navigated interest rates, seasonal hesitation, and year-end pauses. Entering 2026, however, we're seeing renewed engagement, more consistent showing activity, and a healthier balance between listings and qualified buyers. If this pace continues—and early indicators suggest it will—Padre Island could be positioned for a productive and competitive spring market.

Once the official MLS data is released next week, we'll be able to provide a deeper dive into pricing trends, average days on market, and inventory levels. For now, the takeaway is clear: Padre Island real estate is off to a great start in 2026, and both buyers and sellers are re-entering the market with confidence.



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

It has been said that humans are idol factories. It's what we do.

In high school Ron and I were always doing things together. Each year we would go to the local fair. We loved to pitch dimes. We "won" numerous beer mugs. I had a complete set for a thirty-two-person party when I got married! I guarded them with great jealousy, until my wife tossed them.

In 1974 we got to playing Skee ball at the fair. We played, and played, and played. You get the idea. We each spent at least \$75 earning tickets. We thought we had dominated that game. We decided to pool our winning tickets together to get something "real" nice.

The number of tickets we had won allowed us to choose a gold painted metal horse. It was hideous. We probably could have bought it at the local five-and-dime for \$1. However, we were proud of our trophy in a macabre kind of way. We would rotate monthly who got to possess the winning prize. Sadly, I have no idea what happened to that idol. Idols can be like that.

The first two commandments of the Ten Commandments are concerned with idolatry and idols. We are not to have them, and we are not to create them. Some Christians think that posting the Ten Commandments on the walls of public institutions will be good for our society. Putting aside the constitutionality of the matter, I would be pleased if we Christians paid attention to them.

The raw material of idolatry and idols is impatience. This impatience more often than not is born of anxiety and fear. We want to be safe and secure, here and now. We want things to be the way we think they should be, now. We want God to make things happen according to our desires and demands. When this does not happen on our time frame, we turn to our idols.

We do not face a pantheon of gods like the ancient Hebrews or ancient Christians faced. However, we do face a pantheon of false values that quickly form the stuff of idols and idolatry. Materialism, love of leisure, sexuality, worship of self, security, fame, nationalism and many more that are the utilitarian gods we form with the graving tools of pride and justification. This justification can be self-and/or group justification.

Identifying our idols is easier than we would like to admit. Idolatry points to anything that causes our lives to revolve around something other than God. Jesus famously said that Christians cannot serve God and wealth. Idolatry points to whatever word is placed after, "God and"

Idols give a false sense of identity, comfort, pride, hope, and joy. They often lead us to justify the use of violence, retribution, power, strength, and intimidation to defend them. We clothe our idols in religious images and justification. Yet, at the end of the day, it is still idolatry.

This is not God's intent for us. God's will for humanity is to live deeply in God's love and grace in community. In mercy, God looks with compassion at the sight of our suffering which we bring

upon ourselves in the making of idols and the resultant idolatry. In the love of Jesus Christ, God seeks to move us away from our idolatries to a trusting and sure faith that can withstand the arrows of anxiety and fear. It is a trust that even when we cannot see it or sense it, God is at work in us and around us to bring salvation, healing, and hope.

A quick note, on February 13, Island Presbyterian Church will be offering our annual Dessert and More Auction. There will be a complimentary soup supper followed by the auction. All proceeds from the auction will go towards community mission projects. It starts at 6:00 pm at the church. There will be desserts and other items auctioned. There will be a place for you as we seek to serve our neighbors while having fun!

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



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Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

The Battle of the Alamo



By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: The Battle of the Alamo (February 23 – March 6, 1836) was a pivotal event and military engagement in the Texas Revolution. Following a 13-day siege, Mexican troops under President General Antonio López de Santa Anna reclaimed the Alamo Mission near San Antonio de Béxar (now San Antonio). About one hundred Texans were garrisoned at the mission at the time, with around a hundred subsequent reinforcements led by eventual Alamo co-commanders James Bowie and William B. Travis. Thanks to my friend and history nut, Haldeen Braddy, The Texas Western Press, and Wikipedia, for the facts and photos contained in this report.



The Alamo-1854

On February 23, approximately 1,500 Mexicans marched into San Antonio de Béxar as the first step in a campaign to retake Texas. In the early morning hours of March 6, the Mexican Army advanced on the Alamo. After repelling two attacks, the Texans were unable to fend off a third attack. As Mexican soldiers scaled the walls, most of the Texian fighters withdrew into interior buildings. Those who were unable to reach these points were slain by the Mexican cavalry as they attempted to escape. Almost all the Texian inhabitants were killed.

Several noncombatants were sent to Gonzales to spread word of the Texian defeat. The news sparked both a strong rush to join the Texian army and a panic, known as "**The Runaway Scrape**", in which the Texian army, most settlers, and the government of the new, self-proclaimed but officially unrecognized Republic of Texas fled eastward toward the U.S. ahead of the advancing Mexican Army. Santa Anna's execution of surrendering soldiers during the battle inspired many Texans and Tejanos to join the Texian Army. The Texans defeated the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto, on April 21, 1836, ending the conquering of Coahuila y Tejas by the newly formed Republic of Texas.

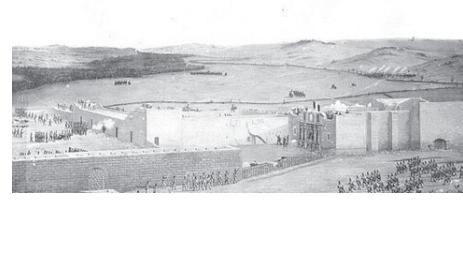
Within Mexico, the battle has often been overshadowed by events from the Mexican–American War of 1846–1848. In 19th-century Texas, the Alamo complex gradually became known as a battle site rather than a former mission. The Texas Legislature purchased the land and buildings in the early part of the 20th century and designated the Alamo chapel as an official Texas State Shrine. The Alamo has been the subject of numerous non-fiction works beginning in 1843. Most Americans, however, are more familiar with the myths and legends spread by many of the movie and television adaptations, including the 1950s Disney miniseries *David Crockett* and John Wayne's 1960 film *The Alamo*.

In 1835, following the repeal of the federalist 1824 Constitution of Mexico, Mexico adopted *Las Siete Leyes* ("The Seven Laws"), a new constitutional framework that replaced the First Mexican Republic with a unitary republic officially named the Mexican Republic (Spanish: *República Mexicana*).

New policies such as banning slavery, changes to immigration, and increased enforcement of laws and import tariffs incited many immigrants to revolt. The border region of Mexican Texas was largely populated by immigrants from the United States, some legal but most illegal. Some of these immigrants brought large numbers of slaves with them, so that by 1836, there were approximately 5,000 enslaved persons in a total non-native population estimated at 38,470. These people were accustomed

to a federalist government which made special exemptions from Mexican law exclusively for them, and to extensive individual rights including the right to own slaves. This led to their growing displeasure at Mexico's law enforcement and shift towards centralism when the centralized government ended local federal exemptions to the ban on slavery, previously negotiated by Stephen Austin and others. Already suspicious after previous United States attempts to purchase Mexican Texas, Mexican authorities blamed much of the Texian unrest on United States immigrants, most of whom had entered illegally and made little effort to adapt to the Mexican culture, and who continued the practice of slavery after it had been abolished in Mexico.

In October, Texans engaged Mexican troops in the first official battle of the Texas Revolution. Determined to quell the rebellion of immigrants, Santa Anna began assembling a large force, the Army of Operations in Texas, to restore order. Most of his soldiers were less-experienced recruits, many conscripted.



Above, *The Fall of the Alamo*, painted by Theodore Gentilz in 1844, depicts the Alamo complex from the south. The Low Barracks, the chapel, and the wooden palisade connecting them are in the foreground.

The Texans systematically defeated the Mexican troops already stationed in Texas. The last group of Mexican soldiers in the region—commanded by Santa Anna's brother-in-law, General Martín Perfecto de Cos—surrendered on December 9 following the siege of Béxar. By this point, the Texian Army was dominated by very recent arrivals to the region, primarily illegal immigrants from the United States. Many Texas settlers returned home, unprepared for a long campaign. Angered by what he perceived to be United States interference in Mexican affairs, Santa Anna spearheaded a resolution classifying foreign immigrants found fighting in Texas as pirates. The resolution effectively banned the taking of prisoners of war; in this period of time, captured pirates were executed immediately. Santa Anna reiterated this message in a strongly worded letter to United States President Andrew Jackson. This letter was not widely distributed, making it likely that most of the United States recruits serving in the Texian Army were not aware there would be no prisoners of war.

When Mexican troops departed San Antonio de Béxar (now San Antonio, Texas, USA), Texian soldiers captured the Mexican garrison at the Alamo Mission, a former Spanish religious outpost which had been converted to a makeshift fort by the recently expelled Mexican Army. Described by Santa Anna as an «irregular fortification hardly worthy of the name», the Alamo had been designed to withstand an assault by Indigenous attackers, not an artillery-equipped army. The complex sprawled across 3 acres, providing almost 1,320 feet of perimeter to defend. An interior plaza was bordered on the east by the chapel and to the south by a one-story building known as the Low Barracks. A wooden palisade stretched between these two buildings. The two-story Long Barracks extended north from the chapel. At the northern corner of the east wall stood a cattle pen and horse corral. The walls surrounding the complex were at least 2.75 feet thick and ranged from 9–12 ft high.

Dotson's Other Note-Thanks for reading... Hang In There!...TO BE CONTINUED

State News

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled

\$4.6 Billion in January

Up 7.1% from 2025

State sales tax revenue totaled \$4.6 billion in January, 7.1 percent more than in January 2025 according to Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock this week.

The majority of January sales tax revenue is based on sales made in December and remitted to the agency in January. Receipts from the sectors mainly affected by business spending showed the largest gains compared with a year ago, with the mining and construction sectors both exhibiting double digit growth. Remittances from the manufacturing sector were more than 8 percent, and receipts from the wholesale trade sector came in 4 percent above their January 2025 totals.

From the large sectors driven primarily by consumer spending, the retail trade and service sectors increased moderately compared with the same month a year ago. Receipts from the retail trade sector were up more than 3 percent compared with last January. Within the retail trade sector, electronic shopping was up nearly 10 percent, while remittances from the general merchandise sector were down slightly.

Receipts from restaurants were up more than 3 percent from a year ago, though less than the rate of inflation for food away from home.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in January 2026 was up 6.1 percent compared to 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 — \$631 million, up 7 percent from January 2025;
- motor fuel taxes — \$327 million, up 4 percent from January 2025;
- oil production tax — \$384 million, down 18 percent from January 2025;
- natural gas production tax — \$189 million, up 9 percent from January 2025;
- hotel occupancy tax — \$57 million, up 19 percent from January 2025; and
- alcoholic beverage taxes — \$161 million, up 4 percent from January 2025

Statewide numbers show single-family rental slowdown

Corpus Christi bucks the trend

Numbers from Rentometer's 2025 Annual Single-Family Rentals Report were released this week finding that Texas is now at the center of the single-family rental slowdown. After leading the post-pandemic rent boom, a majority of Texas markets saw rents flatten or decline again in 2025, signaling a clear correction phase.

The Boston-based group analyzes median rents across more than 1,500 U.S. cities, with a deep dive into 182 cities and places across Texas. To illustrate how uneven this shift has been, we created an interactive, color-coded map of Texas, showing year-over-year rent changes for three-bedroom single-family homes across 182 Texas cities and places.

Key Texas highlights

- 61% of Texas cities recorded flat or declining single-family rents in 2025, one of the highest shares nationwide
- Dallas (-4.4%) and Austin (-3.6%) posted the steepest rent declines among large U.S. cities
- Other major metros, including Houston, San Antonio, Arlington, and Irving, also posted flat or negative growth
- A cluster of smaller and mid-sized cities (such as Abilene, Beaumont, Amarillo, Corpus Christi and Wichita Falls) bucked the trend with rent price gains.

Suburbs and Exurbs: Not Immune Anymore

During the early 2020s, suburban and exurban Texas markets consistently outperformed urban cores. In 2025, that dynamic reversed.

Many high-growth suburbs posted sharp pullbacks, including:

- Round Rock: -6.5%
- Temple: -5.6%
- Longview: -5.3%
- Prosper: -4.6%
- Atascocita: -8.9%

These declines suggest that supply pressure has finally caught up with demand, particularly in areas that absorbed large volumes of new housing during the migration boom. Even fast-growing North Texas suburbs like Frisco (-0.4%), McKinney (-2.2%), and Allen (-4.2%) struggled to maintain pricing power.

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi saw median rents for three-bedroom single-family homes rise 2.7% to \$1,900, continuing a steady upward trend in a market supported by energy, logistics, and coastal employment. Amarillo followed closely, with rents increasing 3.5% to \$1,650, reflecting tighter supply and more stable demand than in many of the state's larger metros.

What This Means for Investors, Renters, and Owners in Texas

The uneven performance across Texas cities in 2025 carries different implications depending on where you sit in the market. For Investors: Selectivity Matters More Than Ever

The era of broad, market-wide rent growth in Texas is over. In 2025, returns were increasingly driven by city-level fundamentals rather than statewide trends. While major metros and fast-growing suburbs faced declining rents, several mid-sized markets continued to deliver steady gains.

For investors, this shift rewards:

- Hyper-local market selection, particularly in supply-constrained cities
- A focus on cash flow and operational efficiency, not just appreciation
- Caution in recently overheated markets where rents remain above sustainable levels

In short, Texas is no longer a "buy anywhere" story; it's a pick-your-market carefully environment.

City	Median Rent 2025	YoY Med Ch %
Houston, TX	\$2,000	-0.5%
San Antonio, TX	\$1,700	-1.5%
Dallas, TX	\$2,295	-4.4%
Austin, TX	\$2,400	-3.6%
Fort Worth, TX	\$2,025	-1.2%

Table: Rentometer • Source: Rentometer • Created with Datawrapper

Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.
Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

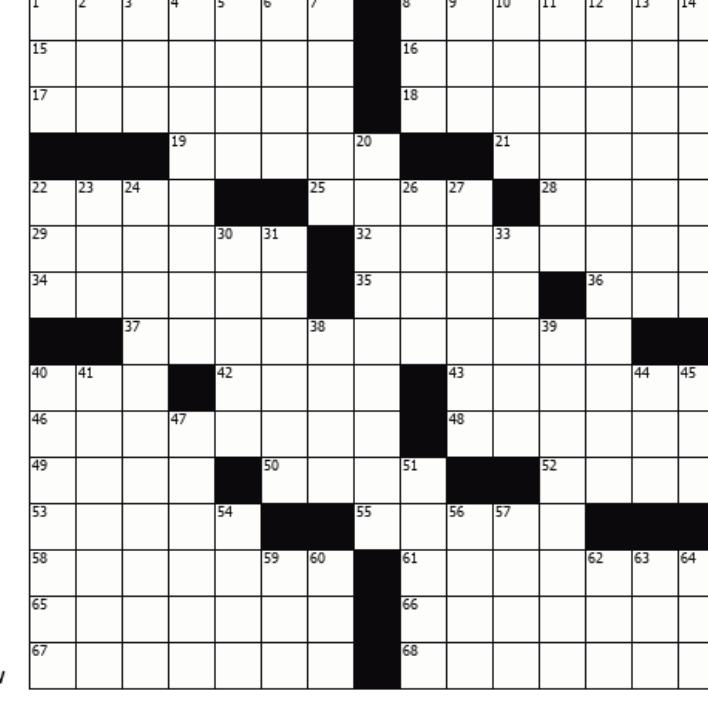
Island Police Blotter

January 1-January 31, 2026

14300 block SPID Jan. 1 Burglary of a Vehicle
 15500 block Cruiser St. Jan. 2 Burglary of a Habitation
 14800 block Windward Dr. Jan. 3 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
 14900 block Windward Dr. Jan. 3 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
 13500 block Bullion Ct. Jan. 3 Theft
 15200 block Windward Dr. Jan. 3 Assault
 14500 block SPID Jan. 4 Theft \$750-\$2500
 14400 block Compass St. Jan. 5 Burglary of a Habitation
 13900 block Eaglesnest Bay Dr. Jan. 6 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
 15300 block E. Chesapeake Jan. 9 Burglary of a Vehicle
 14500 block SPID Jan. 9 Theft \$750-\$2500
 14800 block Granada Dr. Jan. 9 Assault Family
 15500 block Palmira Ave. Jan. 9 Injury to a Child/Elderly weapon
 14500 block SPID Jan. 10 Shoplifting under \$100
 14400 block Cabana East St. Jan. 11 Burglary of a Vehicle
 14800 block Lighthouse Dr. Jan. 12 Burglary of a Vehicle
 15400 block Fortuna Bay Dr. Jan. 15 Assault by Contact
 15400 block Fortuna Bay Dr. Jan. 15 Assault with Injury
 11800 block SPID Jan. 15 Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon
 14100 block Palo Seco Dr. Jan. 18 Assault
 14800 block Granada Dr. Jan. 18 Burglary of a Habitation

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page



Across

1. Jack Nicholson title role of 2002
 8. Seemed to go on forever
 15. Drama, poshly
 16. Zip
 17. Team whose worst shutout was a 22-0 loss to the Indians in 2004
 18. Detail-oriented genre
 19. Lets off
 21. Sonneteer John
 22. "___ Love Her"
 25. Choir arrangement, for short
 28. Spanish equivalent of Mmes.
 29. Pacify
 32. With 46-across, TV show that tied the record for the most winless Emmy nominations in one year (16 in 1993)

34. Goads
 35. Uncredited credit, in quotes
 36. Peace sign
 37. Award for which "The Godfather, Part III" was nominated seven times, but didn't win
 40. Law in La Paz
 42. Xanax, e.g.
 43. Spanish pianist and conductor Jose
 46. See 32-across
 48. Scottish beastie
 49. 68-across buddy
 50. Criminal plea without admitting guilt, for short
 52. Till contents
 53. Move like a co-worker of Elaine's on a "Seinfeld" episode
 55. Ice Cube's real first name
 58. Do some celebrity backing
 61. Team who lost to the Detroit Red Wings by a record 15-0 in 1944
 65. Bakery items
 66. How game play often proceeds
 67. Sign-making tool
 68. Character who sings "She's a super King Kamehameha bee-yotch"

Down

1. Hole
 2. When doubled, a dance
 3. Farm layer
 4. Picard's request
 5. Couple, in "Star"
 6. Tuebingen threesome
 7. What the website Tickle is full of
 8. Note left on some incoming patients
 9. Some eggs
 10. Slightly
 11. Puddle-stomping boot
 12. Back up one's plan?
 13. Trap
 14. Manorial land held by a lord
 20. Texas home to the minor league Colts
 22. Enzyme suffix
 23. Holiday quaff
 24. Try to stay afloat, maybe
 26. Chinese gang
 27. Streisand's husband
 30. Waits on the phone
 31. Play for the halfback
 33. Security for up to ten years
 38. Greek currency
 39. Laugh until it hurts
 41. Completely gone
 44. Storage unit
 45. What -y becomes, in plurals
 47. Like some art exhibit pieces
 51. "Hamlet" role
 54. Costar of John, Terry and Graham
 56. 1985 U.S. Open winner Mandlikova
 57. ___'acte (interlude)
 59. ___ Lankan
 60. Course for new immigrants: abbr.
 62. Hesitant response
 63. Messenger substance
 64. ID requested by the IRS

A Blast from the Past!

This page was taken from the PIPOA Newsletter in 1981

Padre Island Seawall Reconstruction Underway

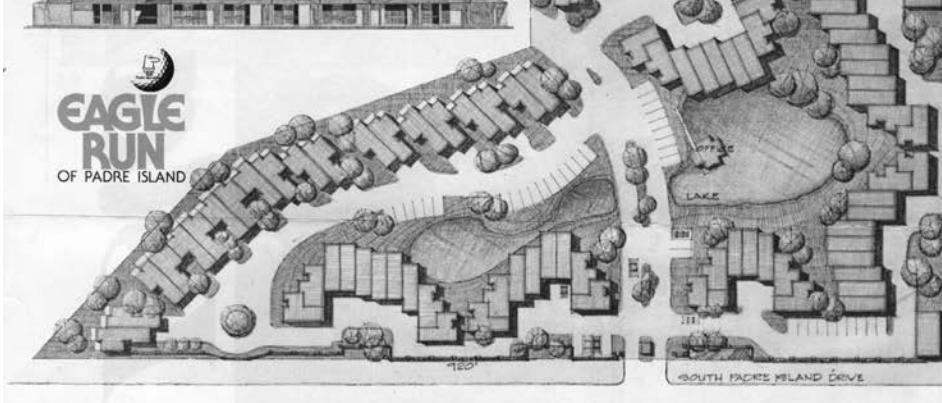
Hurricane "Allen" displaced the seawall which protects the Holiday Inn and condominiums along the ocean shore on Padre Island.

A "Seawall Committee" was formed to consider ways of repairing the wall and financing the project. The owners along the seawall will share in the costs of repair. No governmental agencies will be involved.

On February 14, 1981 the Island Construction Co. began repair of the seawall under the direction of Urban Engineering Co. The "Seawall Committee" contemplates the entire seawall being repaired by summer, 1981.



Golf Course Town Homes Planned



Padre Island Investment Corporation has entered into a joint agreement with the Candystick Corporation, a leading Corpus Christi building firm for the construction of ninety-one luxurious town homes to be constructed adjacent to the golf course and Padre Island Drive.

The units will be approximately 1100 to 1250 square feet in size and will sell in the

range of \$85,000 to \$125,000. Financing is available to qualified purchasers. A condominium management plan will be available.

Interested purchasers should contact the Padre Island Investment Corporation sales representative, Master Key Realtors, Laverne Barton, General Manager, P.O. Box 8809, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412.

Moon Classifieds #1138

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

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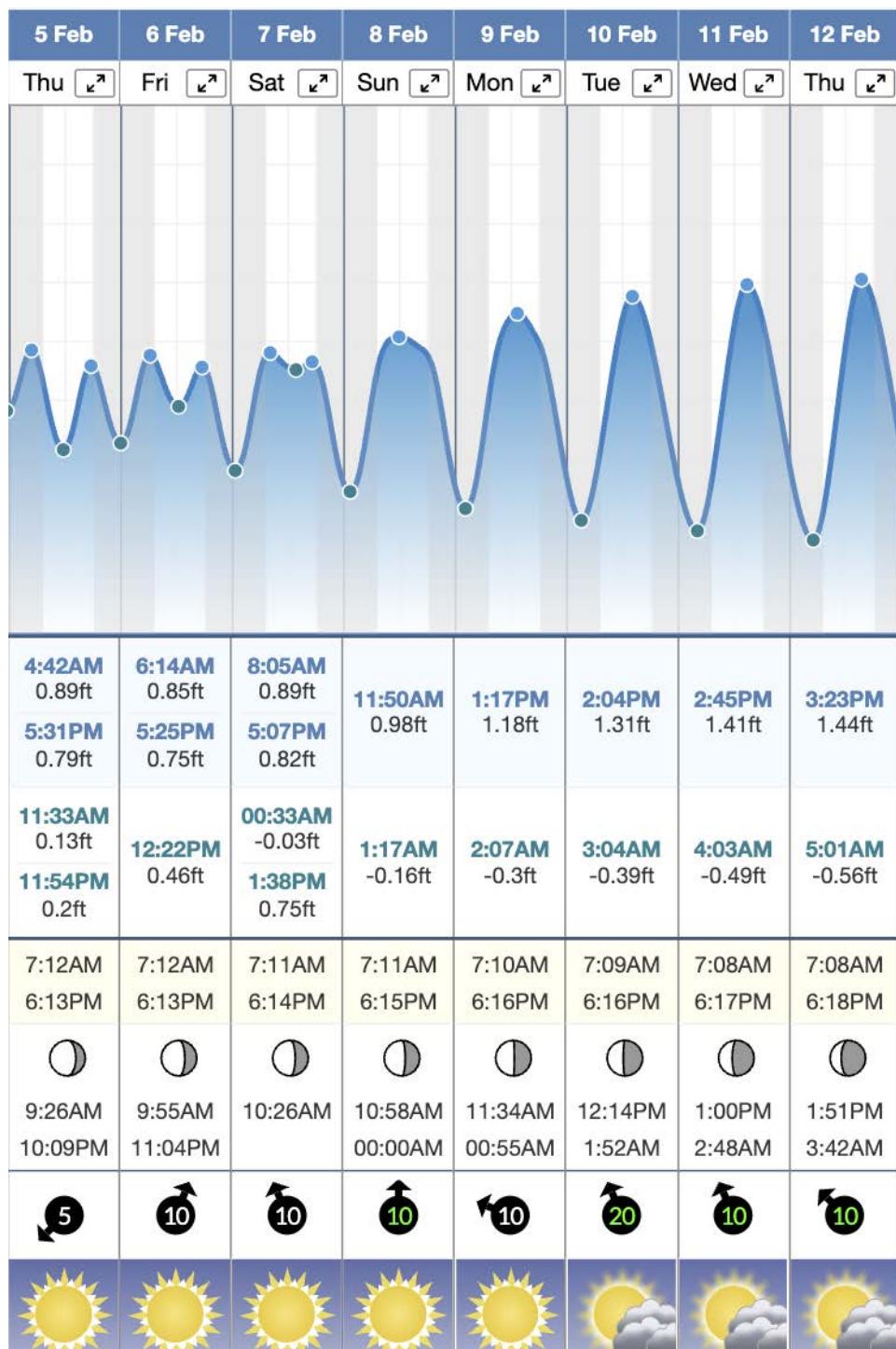
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Tides of the Week



Island Moon Live

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



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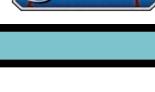
Organized Winter Texan Activities
Relaxing Hot Tubs & Resort Amenities
Beachfront Locations
Private Boardwalks

FEB.
11th

Gulf Shores Condominiums

6021 State HWY 361

10 AM - NOON



FEB.
12th

Sea Gull Condominiums

6649 Seacomber Dr.

10 AM - NOON



FEB.
13th

Casa Condominiums

4903 State HWY 361

10 AM - NOON



FEB.
18th

Sandpiper Condominiums

6745 Seacomber Dr.

10 AM - NOON



FEB.
19th

Sandcastle Condominiums

800 Sandcastle Dr.

10 AM - NOON



FEB.
24th

La Mirage Resort Condominiums

5973 State HWY 361

10 AM - NOON



Port A Happenings

February 14

Port Aransas City Wide Garage Sale

On Saturday, February 14, 2026, the City of Port Aransas will have their Annual City Wide Garage Sale. In addition, the Parks and Rec Department will hold its Annual Hobby Craft Fair in the Robert's Park Pavilion. At the Pollock Building (113 S. Alister Street), Sue's Gals Sewing for Charity will be displaying and selling quilts, bowl cozies, tote bags to raise funds to continue

their charity donations to local food shelves, schools, churches, assisted living residences and many more needs in the community. At this same location, crafters will also be displaying and selling jewelry items, resin/shattered glass art, fabric crafts, diamond art and sun catchers to name just a few. Please stop by and take a look from 9:00-1:00.

Colleen Brewster

Annual Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Dates Set for 2026

For the past 24 years, countless volunteers band together in February to search the Texas coastline for abandoned crab traps. The abandoned traps can foul shrimpers' nets, snag anglers' lines, and create unsightly views. In addition, lost or abandoned fishing gear, such as nets, traps and pots continue to catch and kill marine life (called "ghost fishing"). To date, volunteers and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff have hauled off nearly 45,000 of these derelict traps, saving an estimated 740,500 blue crabs.

From Feb. 20 to March 1, Texas coastal waters will be closed to crabbing with wire mesh crab traps for 10 days to facilitate the annual volunteer crab trap cleanup. Any traps left in bays — including traps tied to docks — will be assumed abandoned and considered "litter" under state law. This allows volunteers to legally remove any crab traps they find.

Volunteers are essential for the success of the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program and are needed to assist with this year's coastwide effort to remove lost or abandoned traps. To facilitate volunteer efforts, select sites will offer volunteer events on Feb. 21 — these sites are denoted as "facilitated" in the list provided below. Registration with partner organizations may be required. Additionally, dumpsters or collection areas marked with banners will be available at all sites to receive traps for the duration of the closure.

Volunteers may focus their efforts on Feb. 21 or work at their own pace throughout the closure; traps cannot be removed prior to Feb. 20 or after March 1. Additional opportunities for land-based volunteers are available but limited.

The Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Galveston Bay Foundation, San Antonio Bay Partnership, Christmas Bay Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide continued support to the 2026 crab trap removal program. In addition, numerous organizations and companies will be volunteering their services.

To participate: Volunteers may pick up free tarps, gloves and additional information at their local TPWD Coastal Fisheries field stations. TPWD requests that volunteers who remove traps both record and submit

information about the number of traps they collect as well as document any sightings of diamondback terrapins to Holly Grand at crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov.

All other legal means of crabbing will not be affected during the closure period for wire crab traps. For more information, please contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries office or Holly Grand via phone at: (361) 431-6003 x822 or via email: crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov.

2026 Crab Trap Drop-Off Sites

ARANSAS BAY – Local TPWD coordinator, Alyx Bradley: (361) 729-5429

- Please visit [San Antonio Bay Partnership's site](#) for more information about volunteering throughout the mid-coast.
- Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

CORPUS CHRISTI BAY – Local TPWD coordinator, Donella Strom: (361) 729-2328

- South Conn Brown Harbor Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Ransom Channel Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

UPPER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator, Ethan Getz: (361) 431-6003

- Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site

LOWER LAGUNA MADRE – Local TPWD coordinator, Jason Ferguson: (956) 350-4490

- Port Mansfield Navigation District Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site
- Adolfo Thomae County Park – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site



Photo from sabaypartnership.org

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By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Welcome VFW...



The Moore-McDonald-VFW Post 8967 in Port A.

First off I want to welcome our local **Moore-McDonald VFW Post 8967** back into the lair. They have a new guy, bartender **Reid Means** booking their music now and I plan to let you know who they have playing from week to week. Plus they have various events throughout the year such as their annual *Chili Cook-off* and the *St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl*, etc. I stopped in a few times last week and the place was packed out with *Winter People*, local veterans and families having drinks and playing shuffle board and video games. The old *VFW* building was destroyed by *Hurricane Harvey* and reopened January 2019. My father was a proud WWII vet and was state commander of the *American Legion* when I was growing up in Lubbock. So, I know for a fact that veterans take their involvement with these organizations very seriously and the bonds between these folks are lifelong friendships. BTW the post is open to the public and kiddos are welcome with adult supervision. The hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday 2-9, Wednesday and Saturday 12-10, Thursday and Friday 2-10 and Sunday 12-9. And, I'm delighted to announce, it's now **NON SMOKING** in there!!! Check it out!

On the local front...



The PA Rockers play every Wednesday at *Bernie's* until April.

Just to state the obvious, the *Winter People* are here in mass. I've been counting out of state license plates and the hands down winner is Minnesota. Man does Minnesota have a full plate or what? One of the solid barometers is the *Winter Texan* day drinkers at the local pubs and the dance floor at *Bernie's* when the **PA Rockers** are playing on Wednesday. Otherwise it's about time to *Mardi Gras* folks. The parade in Port A is on *Fat Tuesday* proper February 17, there's a *PAW DI GRAS* gumbo cook-off at *Shorty's* on the 14th and the *NPI BAREFOOT MARDI GRAS PARADE* on the 28th. Also on the local front, the *WHOOPING CRANE FESTIVAL* is February 19-22 and the *SPRING PHLING* is at Roberts Point Park with the **PA Rockers** on the 21st. Also over in Aransas Pass the *SALT WATER MARDI GRAS* celebration at *Conn Brown Harbor* is on the 14th. Also coming up on February 13-14 in Rockport-Fulton the *RED WHITE & BLUES FESTIVAL* will feature **Tab Benoit, Paul Thorn, Johnny Nicholas, Jimmy Vaughan and the Texas Horns** and others. And, you can't forget the bi-monthly **BELT SANDER RACES** at the *Gaff* every second and fourth Saturday. Plus I should mention there will be another *TURTLE RELEASE* on February 7th at Pole 35.

Scattered shots...

Despite the cold snap, I bundled up and puttered around town in my trusty golf cart last week and caught a few noteworthy shows. On Thursday the ever present **Johnson All Starz** played their weekly gig at *Shorty's* with guest guitarist **Ray Summy**. On Friday I caught our Cajun pals **Boudreux and Pouson** at their home bar, *The Gaff* and over at *Shorty's* the versatile **Art Barrera** put on his *One Man Show*. On Saturday our favorite blues boy **John Cortez** cranked it up at *Shorty's* and **Carson**

Three Chords and the Truth

Miller and the Coastal Cowboys played the *VFW*. I think I may have to give young Mr. Miller another shot. He's starting to catch my attention.



Boone Holding will play *Shorty's* on Friday.

Coming this week...



Cathouse will play *Shorty's* on Saturday.

Buckle up buttercups...we got live music coming at us. On Thursday the 5th looper **Brad Ethridge** will play the *VFW* and the **Johnson All Starz** will stir the pot at *Shorty's*. The core rhythm section, **Art Galvan** on bass and **Antone Perez**, set the scene each week and bring in different guitarists/vocalist such as **Reno Perez, Ray Summy** and **Mike O'Neil**. On Friday the 6th our singer-songwriter buddy **Boone Holding** from Medina will play *Shorty's*. Boone is a very talented artist that we met through **Kinky Friedman** and **Cousin Nancy** who had a dog rescue ranch in the same area. BTW way Cousin Nancy has a very popular pod cast every week. We've grown quite fond of Boone. He is sincere and totally dedicated to his art. Also on Friday trop rocker **Billy Snipes** will play the *Gaff* plus the *Pelican Lounge* will feature our favorite classic rock band, **Dreaming in Color** with the charismatic **Debra Scott Brown** prancing around like a lady possessed. On Saturday the 7th the **Groove 2.0** will entertain the *VFW* with more classic rock, blues rockers **Cathouse** will play *Shorty's* and the great **Keith Sykes** from Memphis will play the *Harbor Room* in Fulton. Sykes is an accomplished songwriter who played in **Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band** and penned the hit song *Volcano* as well as many other songs recorded by **John Prine, Guy Clark, Rosanne Cash, The Judds, Jerry Jeff Walker, Rodney Crowell, Don Henley** and many others. Keith was good friends with our dear friend **Lighthouse Rick (RIP)** and came to Port A every year to write songs and play the now defunct *Third Coast Theater*. He's a super great guy and we sure do miss him around here! And on Sunday the 8th **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the early sing-along shift at *Shorty's* and veteran songwriter **Ty Dietz** will take it home from 7-11. Also on Sunday the **Clark Brothers**, with **Craig Ware Drummer Extraordinaire** will play the *Salty Dog*. Plus on Wednesday the 11th, the **Dunebillies** will play the *VFW* and **Chadwick Lee Hunter** will play the *Gaff*. Yall be safe out there

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Billy Snipes will play the *Gaff* this Friday.



BELT SANDER RACES
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COLD BEER



THE GAFF

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM



Keith Sykes will play the *Harbor Room* in Fulton on Saturday.



The Groove 2.0 will play the *VFW* on Saturday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday,

February 5

Johnson All Starz @

Shortys

Jim Bush @ Gaff

Brad Ethridge @

VFW Port A

Clark Bros @ Salty

Dog

Smile Empty Soul,

Primer 55 @ House of

Rock

Brad Brown @

Blackbeard's on the

Beach



BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT

OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.

JIM BUSH

BILLY SNIPES

JIM DUGAN

CHADWICK LEE HUNTER

BOUDREAU & POUSSON

FEB 5

FEB 6

FEB 7 & 14

FEB 12

FEB 13

Riptide Cowboy Open
Mic @ Mikel May's
Too

Human Rights, Crucial
Riddim @ House of
Rock

Monday,

February 9

Melissa Ann @ Pelican
Lounge

Tuesday,

February 10

Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Port A

Open Mic @ House of
Rock

Wednesday,

February 11

Open Mic w/Brad
Ethridge & Gaff

Chadwick Lee Hunter
@ Gaff 2-5

PA Rockers @ Bernie's
Dunebillies @ VFW

Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican
Lounge

Ruben Limas @ Mikal
Mays



JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN

THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12

BOONE HOLDING

FEB 6

CATHOUSE

FEB 7

BRAD ETHRIDGE

FEB 13

HARMONX

FEB 14

ART BARRERA

FEB 20

Treasure Island

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



MOORE-MCDONALD

VFW POST 8967

THE GROOVE 2.0

FEB 7

BRAD ETHRIDGE

FEB 10 & 17

DUNEBILLIES

FEB 11

JIM DUGAN

FEB 13

LOVE STREET

FEB 14

COASTAL BENDERS

FEB 18



CLOSED FOR SEASON
WILL REOPEN
March 6th



Live music
WILL Return
On March 6th

Johnson All Starz @
Shortys

Chadwick Lee Hunter
@ Gaff

Clark Bros @ Salty
Dog

Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's Too

Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's on the
Beach

Coast Bend Music &
Film Symposium @
House of Rock

Film Symposium @
House of Rock

Film Symposium @
House of Rock

Boudreux & Pousson
@ Gaff

Jim Dugan @ VFW
Port A

Jerry Ward & the
Dirty Birds @ Pelican
Lounge

Lucky Dogz @
Headliners Bar

Sunday,

February 8

SUPER BOWL

SUNDAY

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz

@ Shorty's

Clark Bros @ Salty

Dog

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