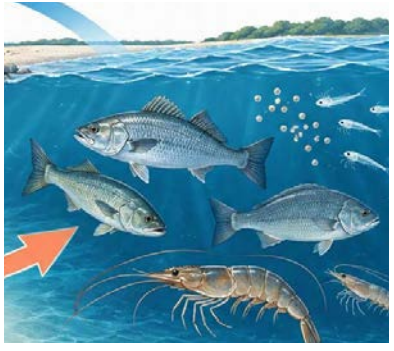
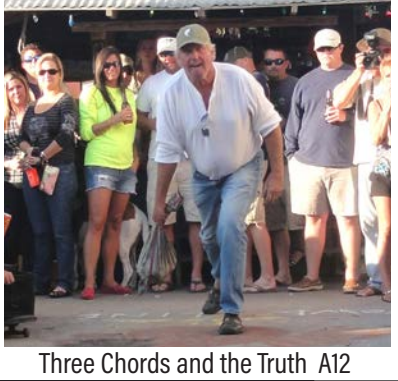

Inside the Moon


Beachcombing Report A6


On the Rocks A7


Three Chords and the Truth A12


The Traveling Moon A5

Backwater Adventures A7

Issue 1180

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The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

November 26, 2026

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version Available Online!

Weekly FREE


Wild Turkeys By Miles Merwin

Around The Island

Island Moon Live is on Thursday's from 11-12 and 1-2 on 1440 KEYS AM, 98.7 FM, and on YouTube



By Dale Rankin

The big news *Around the Island* this week has happened in our backyards where free-flowing water has already begun to clear up the water quality in Island canals. The opening of canals marked the end of five decades of planning and followed $40 million in public spending on bridges, not to mention the private investment in the canals leading to the Don Patricio Bridge.

In response to a question on theislandmoonnewspaper Facebook page Islanders are launching crab traps, and seeing a few more dolphins already. One difference they report from the last time the canals were open, residents south of Whitecap Blvd. are reporting less flow due to the addition of the new canal under the Commodores Bridge that gives the water another pathway. There is a full moon this week so the water will be on the move so fire up the boat and hit the water!

Riley P. Dog Park improvements



As readers know the Riley P. Dog Park at the west end of Whitecap Blvd. is a product of volunteerism *Around the Island*. It was built and is maintained solely with donations and volunteers. So a few weeks ago when dog owners noticed a man navigating the parking lot and entryway in a wheelchair they pitched in and passed the hat to put up signs for ADA parking

Around cont. on A10

A Thankful Island

Islanders have much to be thankful for

7056 households, 342 businesses

Islanders have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. Padre Island has a total of nine U.S. Postal Service routes. The service lists household income by mail route based on numbers from the United States Census Bureau. Here are the numbers:

Padre Island

$112,500 median household income
7056 households
342 businesses


Kent Ullberg's Marlin sculpture at the entrance to The Island

Income by Postal Routes

$121,000 Route CO65 630 residential. 4 business. Western most side of The Island north of Whitecap Blvd. west of Aquarius St., south of Commodores Dr. Includes fingertips south of Whitecap Blvd. east to S. Sabre Drive.

$121,000 Route – C066. 650 households.1 business. Aquarius Dr. north of Whitecap to Dasmarinas Dr., Fingertips west of Aquarius Dr., East of Aquarius to Barataria Dr. and Topgallant. St.

Islanders cont. on page A4

Nature Notes

The Wild Attack Turkey!

With a top speed of 18 mph they are hard to catch


Wild Turkey by Amy Kopec

Amy Kopec

If you—or someone you know—is currently preparing for this year's Turkey Trot, I have some slightly discouraging news: most people will never run faster than a Wild Turkey can.

According to US Fish and Wildlife, Wild Turkeys have been recorded reaching top speeds of 18 mph on foot. Unless you're a professional, that's faster than most humans can sprint. And while this doesn't necessarily mean that a wild turkey would beat you in your local 5k (it's hard to run far at top

Nature cont. on A6

All Roads Lead Back to Texas

A Wandering Fool's Journey Home

Christopher Bloomfield
Author of Tales From a Wandering Fool
State By State Travel

Our family has traveled more than anyone else I've met, and I've kept a route map as we've wandered all over the country. When I looked at the map recently, something jumped out at me. All the roads seem to lead to Texas, specifically the Coastal Bend region! I've heard before that all roads lead to Rome, but I guess the saying might need an update because it seems all our roads lead to Texas.

I guess it makes sense for us because we lived there for a few years. Our middle daughter, Journey, was

Travel cont. on A2



Routes over the last 9 years

A little Island history

The Island Seawall

Why we still drive on the seawall beach in spite of a 2006 vote to ban vehicles there

The political wages of banning traffic on Texas beaches is Death!

(With apologies to Romans 6:23)

By Dale Rankin
Part II

Two decades ago the Island seawall was at the center of the volatile subject of banning traffic on Texas beaches and when the dust finally settled the political class learned a hard lesson about messing with Island beaches. Last week we left off with the rebuilding of the Island seawall after Hurricane Allen in 1980. Once the one-time funding to rebuild it was in place and the work was done its maintenance was taken for granted and the talk turned to removing traffic from the beach there. The private property owners along the seawall had taken on the

History cont. on A4


Beach restrooms under construciton in 2009.

Updated Website for the Island Moon

islandmoon.com

If you want to keep up with the roll out of the new Island Moon Website, scan this QR Code. We will be updating the site and including all sorts of amazing new features!

Early Voting starts Monday

Polls open 8-5

Early Voting begins Monday, November 30 and runs through Tuesday, December 8 for the December 12 City of Corpus Christi elections. Any registered voter may vote in the runoff whether they voted in the General Election or not. Only one of the nine seats on the city council was filled in the first round of balloting in early November leaving seven candidates spread across three elections on the runoff ballot for voters in council District 4 which includes Padre Island and Flour Bluff, as well as voters in Precinct 19 north of Packery Channel inside the Corpus Christi City Limits. The candidates on the ballot for the three island precincts in ballot order are:

Vote cont. on page A2

Applications sought for operator of new Bob Hall Pier Restaurant

By Dale Rankin

The Nueces County Coastal Parks Department has issued Requests for Proposals (RFP) for an operator of the new 5000 square-foot restaurant space on Bob Hall Pier. The proposals went out November 15 and the application process will run through December 1 when the applications will be opened. The applications will then be reviewed by the Coastal Parks Dept. Board of Directors. As of mid-week the RFP document was available only to applicants (not for public viewing) on the PublicPurchase.com website which requires approval from the website operators to view. The proposal runs 41 pages, here are some highlights:

The Agreement term is five (5) years with one five (5)-year renewal option. In the event this contract expires before another contract is awarded, the Contractor shall extend the contract on a month-to month basis by mutual agreement. December 1 2026, 2 p.m. Date to open proposals – subject to change

Pier cont. on page A5

Prayer Rally in the Bluff



On November 14th Island residents met at the Flour Bluff Police Station for the 5th Annual Prayer Rally in support of Law Enforcement, First Responders and the Military.

Financial Focus

You likely support charitable organizations because they matter to you. Aligning your giving strategy with current tax rules may help you maximize both the impact of your gifts and the benefits available to you.

Several strategies may be worth considering.

Some donors choose to "bunch" multiple years of charitable gifts into a single year to increase deductions.

Others use donor-advised funds, which can provide an immediate tax deduction while allowing grants to charities over time.

Donating appreciated securities directly to charity may help reduce capital gains taxes. And if you're age 70½ or older, qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, and may help satisfy required minimum distributions while supporting the causes you care about.

Tax laws have changed in recent years, and some charitable-giving strategies can be complex. Because the benefits vary based on your income, assets and tax situation, consult your tax advisor and financial professional before taking action.

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Travel cont. from A1

actually born in Corpus Christi seventeen years ago. We'd moved there to be closer to my wife's parents and stuck around long enough to establish friendships with some folks. For a variety of reasons, we ended up moving back to my home state of Nevada. There, we built a new life that would be the envy of some folks, with a good career and a nice home to live in.

Then my wife asked me the question that changed everything. She casually asked what I thought about selling off our home and most of our stuff to hit the road for a year with our three kids. At first, I thought it was insanity. I mean, we were living the American dream, and nothing was wrong. I guess she just wasn't happy settling for average or just doing okay. When I agreed and we started traveling, it didn't take long for me to realize that America is vast, and our planned one-year adventure would never allow us to see all fifty states.

Instead of calling it quits and being content having seen "some" of this beautiful country, we decided to make it a way of life. We became nomads, wandering from place to place on a quest to see every state capital. Ten years have gone by, and we are still traveling even though we've visited all the capitals!

One cannot travel for as long as we have without things going sideways. We were driving across Texas, and our trailer tire flew off! Racing a tire down the highway doing 60 mph wasn't what I envisioned when we hit the road all those years ago! That's part of the deal when you constantly travel, though. Things like that are bound to happen, and like normal, we figured it out.

What did we do after that? Well, we went to our happy place to regain our peace, and that place happens to be Padre Island!

We've spent plenty of time enjoying the beaches around Corpus Christi, Padre Island, and Aransas Pass over the years. There's something about the Gulf Coast that keeps drawing us back. Maybe it's the water, the beaches, or simply the feeling of being somewhere familiar after so much time on the road. All of our adventures seem to lead us back to Texas, yet most of the time, it's just smooth sailing and contentment when we're there. I didn't reflect much on any of this until I began writing down some of the stories from our travels and published my first book, *Tales From a Wandering Fool: Stories of Family, Freedom, and the Road Less Traveled*.

I never expected to become a bestselling author, but that's exactly what happened! Writing the book also had an unexpected effect on me. I began spending considerable time thinking about what all these experiences truly mean. We'd even spent six months wandering around Europe and Africa, which was fun, but it also taught me something important about the word "home." We are nomads, so our home is wherever we are. When I ask my kids where home is, I get different responses. One thing has become abundantly clear to me, though: Corpus Christi is one of those places we consider home.

We still have friends in the area, and my wife's parents live in Mathis, so we regularly find ourselves returning to the Coastal Bend. Beyond that, this year we've chosen to spend Christmas at the beach. Spending the holidays in Spain and Italy was fun, but things were different there. This year, our whole family wanted that good old American Christmas in Texas.

I guess the Gulf calls us regularly, and I now understand why it feels so much like home. Every time we're in the area, I feel a sense of contentment. It also helps that snow is a strange thing that only rarely strays down from Canada! I was born in the High Sierras of northern Nevada, so I know a thing or two about cold weather and how it can make people a little grouchy. But more than the warm weather, it's the friendliness of the people along the Gulf Coast that we fell in love with all those years ago. If our travels have taught me anything, it's that the people are what make a place special.

We might have the ability to go anywhere in the world, but we choose to visit a place that will always be home, no matter where the road less traveled takes us.



The family after 9 years of travel

Vote cont. from A1

District 4

The runoff to replace outgoing council member Kaylynn Paxson.

Kristina Nelson

Dan Herrington

Mayor

Paulette Guajardo (incumbent)

Gil Hernandez (Outgoing District 5 council member)

At-Large

Vote for one or two candidates. The top two vote-getters will take office.

Merida Nardone Mendoza

Michael Miller

Carolyn Vaughn (incumbent)

Nueces County Appraisal District Board

Corbett "Butch" Pool

Jo Ann Beltran

Early Voting runs Monday-Friday, November 30 - December 4 8:00 am- 5 pm. Polling locations will be open at: Island Presbyterian Church 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.

Ethel Eyerly Senior Center 654 Graham Rd. in Flour Bluff.

WHITECAP
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DECEMBER 2, 2026
6 PM - 8 PM | Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 PM

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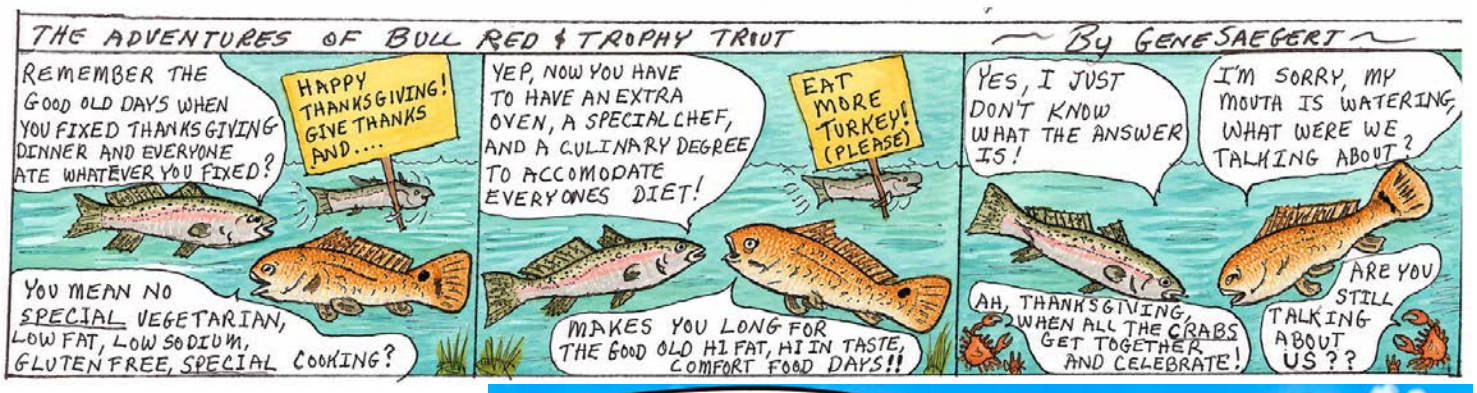


Letters to the Editor

Letter from Riley P. Dog

Thanksgiving 2013

Boy, I have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. I was pretty sure that I was out of tricks and it was the end for me because I heard my humans complaining that I've been gaining weight again from sneaking cat food. Then I got dropped off at Dr. Christi's on Monday and the last time one of the stoopid cats got dropped there she didn't come home. I was really scared.

But I just got sprayed with water and rubbed a lot and it wasn't so bad. Then my humans came and picked me up and said I smelled girly. I'm not sure what that smells like but I think it's better than stinky because that's what they were calling me before I went. Then on Tuesday they got me up really early and only let me pee with no walk and no food and we headed back to Dr. Christi's. What the heck! I gave them the sad eyes and the stink eyes but they were having no part of it and dropped me off again.

Dr. Christi gave me some medicine and I went to sleep for what seemed in dog time to be a long time. I remember seeing a lot of hot dogs floating around and trying to grab them with my teeth but I couldn't catch them. I guess that's what dog heaven looks like. Then I woke up and my humans were there and I was so happy to see them. It turns out that Dr. Christi was just cleaning my teeth but I wasn't allowed to watch her do it. I think she has some special trick she doesn't want me telling the other dogs about but I can't remember anything now anyway so it doesn't matter.

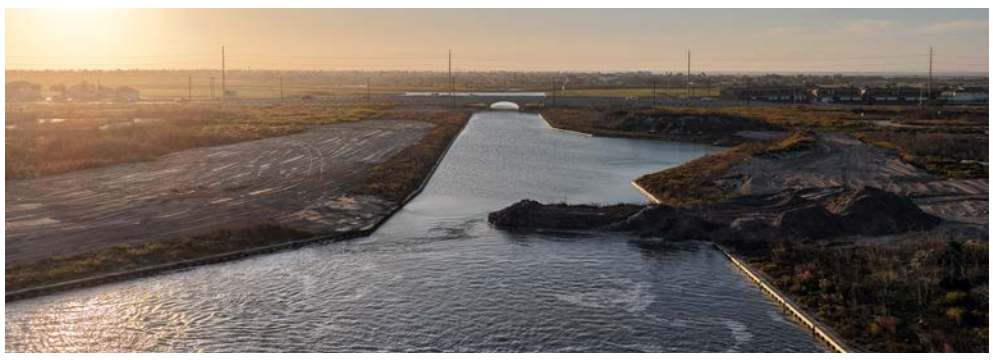
It turns out I have a crack in one of my teeth so it's a good thing they took me in but now they say it's probably from chewing on rawhides so they'll probably take them away from me too. So this Thanksgiving I'm just Thankful to be alive and that I have humans and Dr. Christi that take really good care of me even though they take everything that I really love away from me. Oh and don't eat the wishbone it's not good for you and keep an eye on the people drinking the most because they tend to drop more food. Happy Thanksgiving and don't forget to send me a hot dog or some rawhides to *Not Hot Dogs for Riley P. Dog. International Falls, Minnesota.*

Riley P. Dog

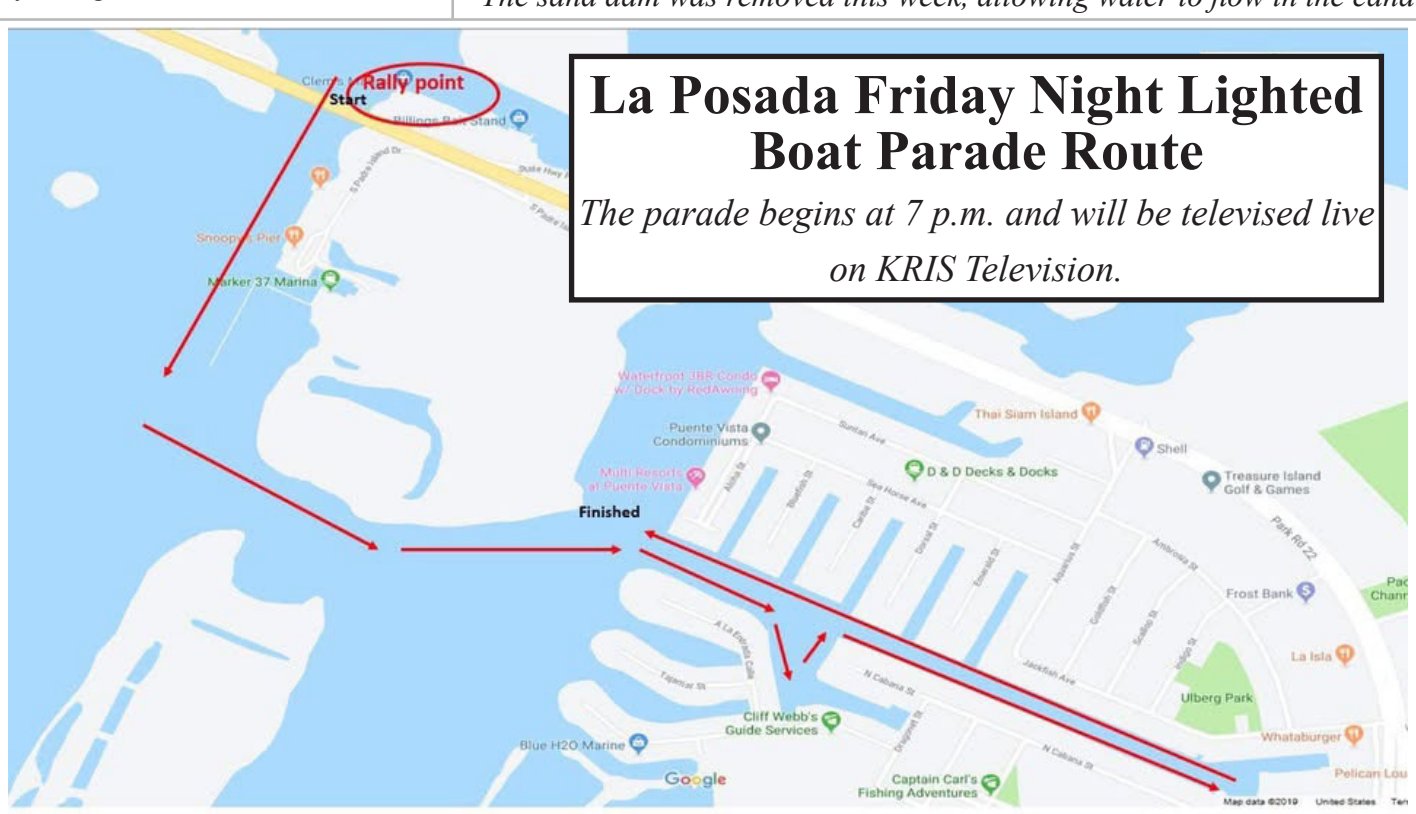




Why did the turkeys cross the road?
Well, to get to The Island for Thanksgiving of course!



The sand dam was removed this week, allowing water to flow in the canals.



La Posada Friday Night Lighted Boat Parade Route

The parade begins at 7 p.m. and will be televised live on KRIS Television.

Moon Monkeys



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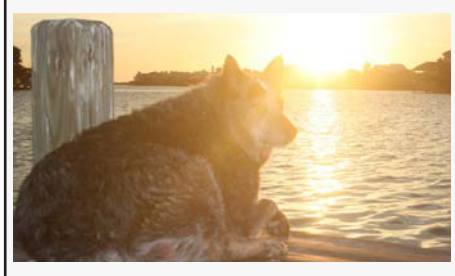

Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon
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Shorty's Place
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Red's Riviera
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Beach Lodge
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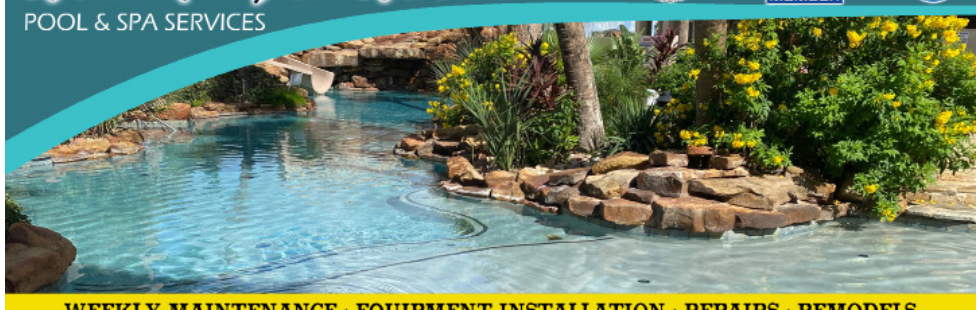
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Stuff I Heard on the Island



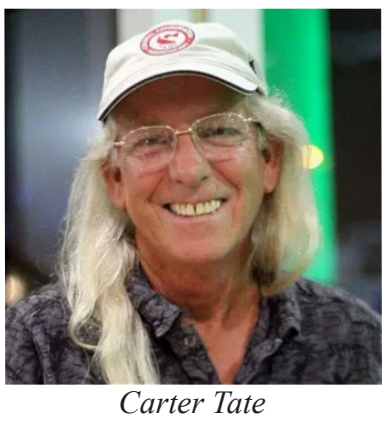
By Dale Rankin

There is sadness among Thanksgiving this week with the passing of our good friend and longtime Islander Carter Tate. Carter sustained a head injury when his dirt bike crashed near the entrance to Commodores Park and did not regain consciousness. He had hit a bad patch health wise but his sudden passing leaves a gap in life for us here at the Island Moon where Carter was a regular dropper-inner.

My first thought when I heard he had passed away went back to 2016 when he showed up at the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade with a live fire tank. When I say live fire I mean as in you load in a live round and you can fire it. Exactly how and why Carter owned a live fire tank I was never quite clear on but it turned out he and a partner had three of them and took them to a spot somewhere north of Swinney Switch where they had tank battles.

Watch out for dogs and small humans

The federal rules for driving around in a live fire tank were myriad – for good reason – and the tank had to report its position every few minutes by pinging a satellite and as it turned out it wasn't just the tank that Big Brother kept his eye on. Carter said he got a good deal on the Challenger 3 tank because it was being phased out after being used in street fighting in Ireland. As we made our way through the crowd on the beach that day we were placed last in the parade because starting and stopping was a lurch-filled experience and lurching is not conducive to sliding along the beach on a surfboard connected to the tank by a long rope. We had to put out tank scouts ahead of us so the tank driver who couldn't see directly in front of the tank wouldn't run over dogs or small humans or larger humans who ran out in front of the moving tank to take selfies.



Carter Tate

I figured we would win a prize if we shot a live round over the head of the crowd out into the gulf but Carter didn't like that idea – "It would scare the dogs," he said - so I suggested we just shoot confetti out of the tank barrel but Carter said to do that would require about thirty pounds of paperwork so instead we just stuck a flag in there.

When we got to the end of the parade route I noticed the pickup was still following us so I asked Carter what was in the truck. "Live ammo," he said. "As in live tank rounds?" "Yep, they have to stay with the tank." I took a look and they were large shells, large enough to blow up a tank or a parade. I was glad I didn't know until the end of the parade that we were driving through a crowd of people with live explosives. What could possibly go wrong?

I had already contacted Carter to see if he still owned his tank and hoped to use it in the parade again this year but that is not to be. But I'm glad I at least got to talk to my friend one last time before he left us. One of the many things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving is that for the past 17 years I got to be friends with Carter. Going down the beach gliding along behind that tank made both of us feel like kids again and come to think of it, maybe that's why he bought it.

He was a good friend and a free spirit and I miss him.







A little Island history

History cont. from A1

financial responsibility for maintaining the seawall structure and in return an agreement was struck to remove vehicular traffic from the beach along the seawall in exchange for their purchase of land for a parking lot which the City of Corpus Christi would build and maintain.

A plan is hatched

That plan had its origin in the Dune Protection and Beach Access Plan, adopted February 28, 1995, and an element of the City Comprehensive Plan, provided that *"Subsequent to the purchase and development of a parking lot landward of the seawall, the City will take action to close permanently the beach seaward of the Seawall to vehicular traffic for safety purpose (sic)."* Then the Mustang-Padre Area Development Plan adopted by City Council Ordinance #025725 on April 20, 2004 included an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which provided *"in order to create a safe day use beach area in front of the seawall, traffic will be prohibited once a public parking area is constructed, once a 300 space parking lot is available on the existing city land located adjacent to the seawall."*

So the eight major property owners along the seawall paid a special assessment of $471,304 to buy the land under what is now the city parking lot located near the center of the seawall to facilitate the closing of the beach to traffic and still remain in compliance with the Texas Open Beaches Act which requires one parking space within a quarter mile of each fifteen feet of beach closed to traffic.

A new plan

Things moved along until 2006 when developer Paul Schexnailder whose company owned the majority of the land behind the seawall brought a new plan which purported to build a one billion dollar hotel development by Intrawest Resorts Holdings on the beach immediately south of Packery Channel, although a firm plan was never presented.

In March 2006 the Corpus Christi City Council at the behest of the developer voted to ban vehicles on the beach from the South Packery Jetty 7200 feet south to the northern boundary of Padre Balli Park. The area included the long-planned traffic ban at the seawall but expanded it by almost double the distance. The plan was about as popular with beachgoers as a permanent sargassum weed invasion and an opposition group called the Beach Access Coalition formed and through a petition drive forced the issue to a public referendum, arguing that what the developer wanted was a private beach and the ban was in fact not just against cars but was designed to discourage the public from assessing its beach – it wasn't just the cars he didn't want it was also the people *in* the cars. A private beach was estimated to be worth thrice the value of a public beach and the issue went to a citywide vote.

It was a divisive election in which the Padre Island Business Association sided with the developer without consulting its membership causing a split and while Islanders narrowly approved the ban it failed decisively citywide with 56,000 voters (34% of the registered voters in the city) rejecting the ban by a 55%-45% margin and 71% approving an amendment to the City Charter requiring a vote by the public on any future traffic ban on any and all city beaches which remains in effect today. The message was clear, not only does the Texas Open Beaches Act treat state beaches as roadways, so do local residents – we drive on our beaches.

Back to the old plan

This left the seawall property owners in possession of land for a parking lot but no plan to build it. So the old plan to prohibit traffic only from the beach in front of the seawall came back to life and in November 2008 citywide voters went to the polls again and this time approved the plan. Planning to build the parking lot began soon afterward and an ad hoc Island committee was formed (the Island Strategic Action Committee had not yet been established) to come up with a plan for where to place the wooden bollards to restrict traffic. The developer sensed a chance for a second bite at the apple and once again the traffic ban expanded beyond the boundaries of the seawall - and the restriction approved by voters - as the committee came up with an altered plan that would have placed wooden bollards parallel to the waterline 50 feet landward of the mean high tide line from the north end of the seawall to within 600 feet of the South Packery Jetty with removable gates to allow for the launching of sailboat and jet skis. It wasn't a total ban on vehicles north of the seawall but beachgoers would be restricted from driving within 50 feet of the water's edge.

The political wages

This once again stirred the ire of beach access advocates. City Council members still stinging from the rebuke after the 2006 vote, which also saw the removal of two councilmembers on the same ballot, ran for the political hills. Not only was the expanded beach vehicle ban designed by the ad hoc committee not implemented the council didn't even want to remove cars from the beach along the seawall even through it had been approved by voters! The political consequences of siding with developers over surfers, beach anglers and the beach-going public had been made manifest and continues in the body politic at city hall to this day. This is Texas and we drive on our beaches.

The political wages of banning traffic on Texas beaches is Death!



The beach was renourished in February 2010.

Islanders cont. from A1

$116,000 Route C067. 682 households. 84 businesses. East of Aquarius – Dasmarinas Dr. to Whitecap Blvd.

$116,000 Route CO48. 583 households.0 businesses. Includes Dasmarinas Dr. north of Whitecap Blvd.- area south of Whitecap Blvd. to Ports O Call, east to Gypsy St. south to but not including Hawksnest Bay Dr.

$122,000 Route 075. 1116 households. 3 businesses. From Fortuna Bay Dr. south to Eaglesnest Bay Dr. and east if Gypsy St. south to Encantada Ave.

$122,000 Route CO70. 868 households. 17 businesses. From Eaglesnest Bay Dr. south to Sea Pines Ave. east to and including SPID.

$103,000 Route CO71. 854 residences, 72 businesses. East of Aquarius Dr. north of Jackfish Ave, east to Packery Channel

$77,000 Route CO50..515 residential, 120 businesses. Including SPID, southeast to include fingertips south of Seashore Ave.

$115,000 Route. CO49. 1158 residences, 41 businesses. West of SPID, south of SH 361, north of Whitecap Blvd. Includes Can Harbor Blvd.

Corpus Christi

$74,717 median household income 2025

$67,394 median household income 2024-2025

Dale Rankin

Texas Master Naturalist

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Pier cont. from A1

Evaluation Criteria:

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA Qualifications of all Proposers that respond to this solicitation, including any subcontractors to be utilized, will be evaluated using the following criteria to rank each of the proposals. The Proposer that is ranked the highest will be considered … for selection.

Criteria	Maximum Points
Business Plan	40
Capacity to Perform	30
Qualifications and General Experience	15
Work Performance	15
	Total 100

Evaluation committee members independently review and score each proposal in accordance with the criteria listed below. Scores are based solely on the information provided in the proposal, any authorized interviews or presentations (if applicable), and the requirements outlined in the solicitation.

Each criterion is scored on a scale from 0 to the maximum points available.

1. Business Plan (Maximum Points: 40)

This criterion evaluates the Proposer's overall vision and business plan for the operation of the restaurant at Bob Hall Pier, including the extent to which the proposed concept is appropriate for the location and provides an attractive and sustainable dining experience for park visitors, area residents, and tourists

Consider, but are not limited to, the following:

• Overall restaurant concept, theme, and proposed use of the space
• Proposed menu, food and beverage offerings, and anticipated pricing
• Proposed hours and days of operation
• Customer service and overall guest experience
• Interior and exterior atmosphere, décor, furnishings, and overall presentation
• Marketing, advertising, and promotional strategy
• Approach to attracting and serving park visitors, area residents, and tourists
• Overall feasibility and sustainability of the proposed operation

Higher scores are awarded to Proposers who present a well-developed, realistic, and innovative business plan that demonstrates a clear understanding of the Bob Hall Pier location and provides a strong concept for the successful long-term operation of the restaurant.

2. **Capacity to Perform (Maximum Points: 30**) This criterion evaluates the Proposer's operational and financial capacity to successfully establish, manage, and sustain the restaurant operation throughout the term of the Agreement. Consider, but are not limited to, the following:

• Proposed management and staffing structure
• Availability and adequacy of personnel and operational resources
• Ability to provide necessary equipment, furnishings, technology, supplies, and inventory
• Financial capacity and working capital necessary to establish and sustain operations
• Ability to maintain adequate staffing and service during peak and seasonal demand

Higher scores are awarded to Proposers who demonstrate sufficient financial, managerial, staffing, and operational resources to successfully establish and sustain the restaurant operation.

3. **Qualifications and General Experience (Maximum Points: 15)**

This criterion evaluates the proposer's overall qualifications and experience relevant to the scope of work. Consider, but are not limited to, the following:

• Demonstrated experience performing services of similar size, scope, and complexity
• Qualifications, education, certifications, and experience of key personnel assigned to the project
• Firm's history, stability, and years of relevant experience
• Demonstrated understanding of the project requirements and objectives Higher scores are awarded to proposers who clearly demonstrate extensive, relevant experience and strong qualifications directly aligned with the County's needs. 4. Work Performance (Maximum Points: 15) This criterion evaluates the proposer's past performance and ability to deliver quality services. Consider, but are not limited to, the following:

• Past performance on similar projects
• Quality of work, adherence to schedules, and responsiveness to client needs
• References, including demonstrated customer satisfaction and problem resolution
• History of meeting contractual obligations

Higher scores are awarded to proposers with a strong record of successful project delivery and consistently positive performance outcomes.

Total Possible Score (Maximum Points: 100)

Scope of Services Information

The selected proposer shall be responsible for establishing, managing, and operating a restaurant at Bob Hall Pier. The restaurant is intended to serve visitors to Bob Hall Pier and Padre Balli Park, area residents, and tourists. The selected proposer shall provide all management, personnel, equipment, supplies, and other resources necessary for the successful operation of the restaurant, except for those items specifically identified as being provided by the County.

The pier concession operation is not included in this Scope of Services. This solicitation is limited to the restaurant space and restaurant operation. The new construction will have a paved landing area with a total of 10 ADA compliant parking spaces, with 6 spaces designated as ADA only spaces. Other parking is available on the beach or within Padre Balli Park.

The Traveling Moon



Jay and Renee Schroeder took the Moon on a river cruise on the Danube. Pictures from Nuremberg, Vienna, Budapest.





The Island Moon went to England for Thanksgiving 2013.





Island Outdoors

Nature Notes

Nature cont. from A1

speed) it would still be pretty difficult to escape one over a short distance. And before you laugh at that, know that escaping from turkeys is an actual concern in some situations.

Wild Turkeys are notoriously territorial. Individuals will stake their claim on a yard, the sidewalk or even the road, creating problems for the humans who also happen to live there. I remember listening to a news report during my freshman year of high school that mentioned several attack turkeys in New England suburbs. Mail carriers were chased. Cars were damaged. The police were involved… turkeys only look cartoonish if they aren't charging at you doing a 3-minute mile pace. At that point it's probably time to rethink the parade float. But not everyone has considered the territoriality of turkeys terrifying.

Those familiar with history or the musical "1776" will recall that Ben Franklin favored the Wild Turkey over the Bald Eagle for our national bird. He wanted something completely unique to North America that didn't echo centuries of European monarchies and empires. Franklin also saw the turkey's territoriality as a bravery. Here was a bird that was willing to fight to keep its land and resources. While Bald Eagles will certainly strive to protect their own, they are largely a scavenger species. If an eagle can get an easy meal by stealing a fish from an Osprey, it will. They are not above dumpster diving either. In fact, the greatest number of Bald Eagles I have ever seen in one place was at an open-air dump. Conversely, the most turkeys I've seen in one place were in a farm field.

Turkeys also represent some of the best problem-solving the US has done. Bald Eagles may be the poster child of the Endangered Species Act, but turkeys were of conservation concern in the 1900s too. The large range and high population of these birds today is due to the hard work of many people, including a large number of hunters. Wild Turkeys show us that we can find conservation solutions that allow for the needs and wants of all sorts of people. We can literally have our bird and eat it too.

Given that turkeys are not just tasty or goofy looking, did the founding fathers choose the wrong bird? You'll have to decide that for yourself—or maybe you can have a healthy debate on it over Thanksgiving dinner. After all, does it really matter if our national bird is photogenic? Behind that wattle is a species that has and will continue to fight for its place—and probably beat you in a foot race too.



Wild turkeys by Miles Merwin

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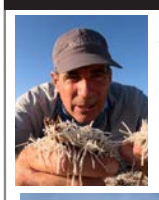
Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Seven Notes, Three Photos, One Mysterious Bottle



Jace Tunnell holding the mysterious bottle

Huge waves crashed onto Texas beaches this week, with storm-driven tides pushing Gulf waters all the way to the sand dunes. The powerful surf churned up debris, uncovering objects buried beneath the sand and washing unusual treasures ashore.

While riding my electric bike during a 36-mile beach survey, I spotted a brown glass bottle nestled in a debris line among sticks, trash, and sea beans. The bottle was sealed with an old, weathered cork. Looking through the dark glass, I could see rolled-up papers inside. Naturally, I had to investigate!

Once home, I removed the cork and discovered something unlike any of the 70-plus messages in bottles I've collected over the years. Inside were three photographs of men with their eyes and mouths blacked out, seven handwritten papers, and a black wax-like stick. Several papers contained names repeated seven times, along with unusual cross-shaped symbols.

Remarkably, everything inside was completely dry!

I shared the discovery on Facebook, and the response was incredible. Within four hours, the post received more than 1,100 likes, 200 comments, and 132 shares.

One particularly interesting comment suggested the writing was a Haitian Vodou petition, possibly a curse directed toward someone. According to the commenter, the letter invokes Mèt Agwe Woyo, a spirit of the sea, and Simbi Dlo, associated with freshwater. The interpretation hasn't been independently verified, but the possible connection to water spirits makes this discovery especially intriguing.

Was the bottle intentionally placed in the ocean as part of a spiritual ritual? How far did it travel before washing onto a Texas beach?

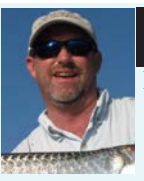
I've found everything from refugee boats to messages carried by ocean currents from South America, but this discovery ranks among my most unusual finds. Some mysteries of the Gulf may never be solved, and I guess that's part of what makes Beachcombing so fascinating!

Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears in newspapers, as a weekly video on YouTube and KEDT PBS, and as a weekly feature on KEDT NPR. Follow Jace at harteresearch.org, Facebook (@harteresearch) and Instagram (@harteresearch).



Contents of the mysterious bottle. This is the original image with AI used to blur the faces and last names of individuals.





On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

It is all Science!

Happy Thanksgiving all you loyal readers! This is the first of the final Big holidaze that will we see as we head downhill in the end of 2026. I just wish the weather wasn't garbage again this year; next year we are due a beautiful Turkey Day break, and so many of us are biding our time and working here on the days leading up to the annual Turkey Coma. Coach Clynt and I are supposed to be cooking some meals for a few folks, and I'm going to have to bundle up and go fire up the smoker after this.

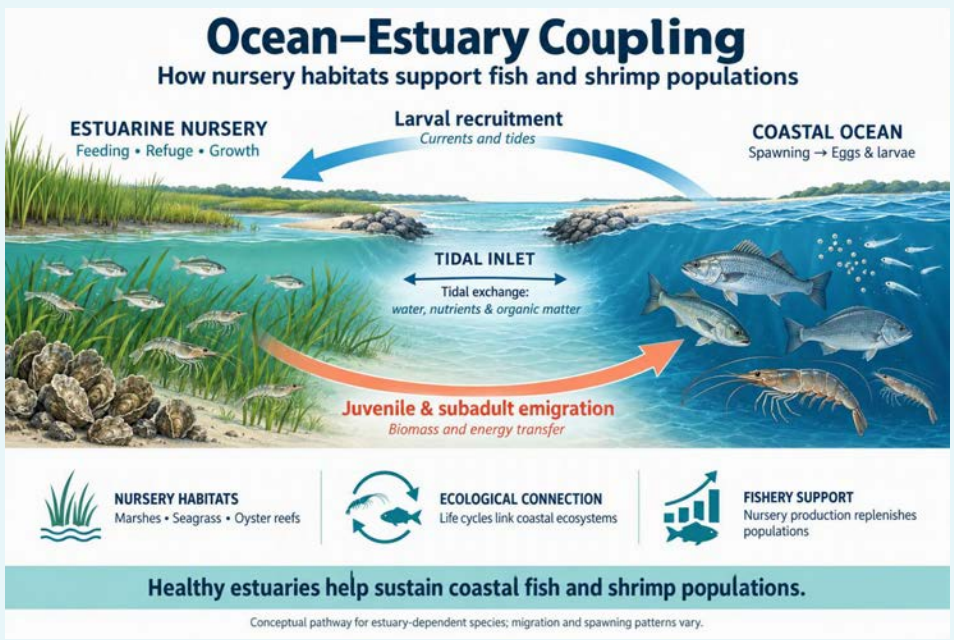
I didn't make it up to Houston last week for the big news, but CCA – Texas committed another $5 million dollars to oyster reef funding up and down the Texas coast. We pledged $5 million three years ago in a big push to get some of our worst degraded reefs back up to snuff, and that program is clipping right along, with some of the reefs already in the water, and a few others that will be constructed in the next year after we finalize permitting. That raises the total to $14 million over the past 7-8 years as part of our Habitat Today/Fish for Tomorrow campaign.

We worked in conjunction with the Harte Research Institute (Dr. Jenni Pollack's group) to create an oyster suitability index, which aimed at identifying the best places on the coast to rebuild these reefs, and we have followed through with our Texas Parks and Wildlife Partners, along with NOAA, Shell, Shimano, and a handful of others to get reefs going in Galveston, Caranchua, East Matagorda, and my favorites in St. Charles, Ayres, Carlos, and Mesquite Bays. The last three are the bay complexes right inside Cedar Bayou. You loyal readers know that I've written about ocean estuarine coupling, and this is a perfect example of building places for small fishes, crabs, shrimp and other organisms to grow up in protected areas around oyster reefs.

The ocean-estuarine coupling mechanism finally got a shot in the arm around here lately with the re-removal of the sand plug between Lake Padre and the rest of the canals. This time of year, redfish, trout, flounder, and other fish use the Packery Channel pass to go out into the Gulf, and spawn. Then the larvae get pulled back into the bays and Laguna, and hopefully find sea grass beds, marshes, and structure that will allow them to both hide from predators and provide them with food resources so they can grow up and complete the cycle.

The great thing with the connection to the Gulf open again is all the interstitial spaces that the Whitecap NPI development created along some of their canals that will provide some really quality nursery areas. Yes, larvae have been coming in Packery Channel for years now, however there's not really hospitable landing/growing grounds. The Living Shoreline will provide that habitat as we head into the winter. We should have a boom of good stuff growing out of the rocks by early summer. I had AI create me a little graphic showing the coupling, and notwithstanding the fish species appearance, I think you get the idea. This is folks putting their money where their mouth is and getting some great habitat built.

The Texas Cold Water Collaborative, led by Dr. Philippe Tissot, is up and running and we're hoping to have a mild winter. It's already too cold for these old bones, I don't like it. It feels too early to be digging out heavy coats and jackets. Of course, the weather rebounds next week when we're all back in the office. Boo! Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Ocean-Estuarine coupling AI graphic

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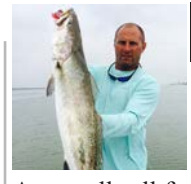

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Thank You

As we all roll farther along in life, it seems there comes to light some amazing gifts that were handed down to us all. Things you can hold in your hand, hang on the wall. The things that stay with us all for a lifetime are opportunities, knowledge, time, and love. This week I shared memories of growing up here on the water with some of my guests, making us all laugh and roll the years back. I couldn't help but look up at the eagles and say thank you for the opportunity to have grown up here on the water, in a coastal community, surrounded by nature, great people, and an unlimited playground of adventure. How do we say thank you to those that made that all happen in our lives? Hand it down to others. This week and for the rest of the Holiday Season, take kids on outdoor adventures, hand over those old things in the garage you have been hanging on to. Make some kids happy and excited.

I HAVE CRABS

There was an old man that worked at one of the bait camps at the Humble Channel, Mr. Freddy loved eating soft shelled crabs, every day he would walk in the store and poke all the crabs in the wooden crab tank to check for the ones that had just molted their shell. "Ain't nothing better than a fried up soft-shelled crab sandwich! The crabbers bring me one every now and again, say I'll give ya $5 for every one you get." We left out in my Jon boat passing crab traps all the way home…

Well, Mr. Santos was the crab man, a big smiling Dominican man that we didn't want mad at us. After a few days of checking his traps and bringing the old man a few soft shells we thought we better let him in on what we were doing. "Can we check your crab pots after school for soft shells? We will lay them back just like we found um? He smiled and said, "Five bucks for each of them? Why don't yall check the traps and bring me the crabs and keep the soft-shelled crabs for Freddy." For the week we checked those traps and dumped love crabs all over the bottom of that Jon boat each afternoon, and brought them over to Mr Santos, we had about 25 dollars' worth of soft-shell crabs we had taken over to the Old Man. That was about 1 in 300 crabs that were soft! Lots of pinched hands and feet, but enough money to fill a few gas tanks full of gas and a bag full of snacks and lures, we were ready! My short but very sweet career as a crabber.

Our tides have been high, but they are about to start dropping, and so is the water temperatures. Fish have been gathering around zones that offer deep water retreat, shallow warming flats, and lots of soft, muddy bottoms. The mature gamefish that followed



William AKA FISH LIPS, has grown up taking adventures with his grandpa here to catch stringers like this Thanksgiving catch!

out schools of baitfish this late summer and fall have been moving back into the bays and going to be settling into winter patterns. Fishing the flats in 4' of water with soft plastics on the warmer days has been incredibly fun.

Drifting the edges of the ICW canal and the flats along Flour Bluff have made for some great stringers. As we start to have a few really hard tempatures drops watch as gamefish and bait pour into deep water canals and channels. Imagine it's getting cold and you know you're not going to have the energy to eat for a few days, and all the minnows are gathered in one deep hole. Trout redfish and drum are going to gorge themselves. So by the time the sun comes out most of the best fish are full. Do not wait until it's pretty to head out fishing. Throw some cold weather gear on and head out by boat or foot. Padre island and Port Aransas have more public access fishing spots than anywhere in the state! All within walking distance. Make it easy and take a pocket of soft plastics with 1/8 and 1/4oz jig heads. If you want some drum just get some dead shrimp or even fish bites in a ziplock, tear off your soft plastic and thread the shrimp onto the jig head and let it sit on the bottom along any deep water area you can find here on the island.

THE NEW PASS

THE WAYER FLOW HAD BEEN RIPPING! Just in time for that migration of bait and gamefish into deep water they opened up the highway into the Canals. Migrating snook have been outing in for the winter instead of going all the way to the Brownsville ship channel, big trout will settle in the many miles of canals here on North Padre and Island Mornings, making the water behind the house or down the street some of the best winter fishing around. The sun warms the cement bulkheads and that heat transfers down into the water. Fish will get close to the edge at night, feeding and suspending. It will be interesting to see how the movements of water change things. Last time it was open I saw effects very quickly.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Smile, hug, kiss, play and enjoy friends and family this week. If you're down and lonely this holiday, get yourself a fishing pole and go use it. What a great way to make new friends, reconnect with family, and just open your empty heart to the fresh cool winds of winter. I promise a stiff wind up your back will wake you up! Follow all of our catches on FACEBOOK AND TICKTOCK AT JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING! Or call to find your next Adventure, some of the best lunar days are open for Trophy Trout Season in January and February! 361-442-8145

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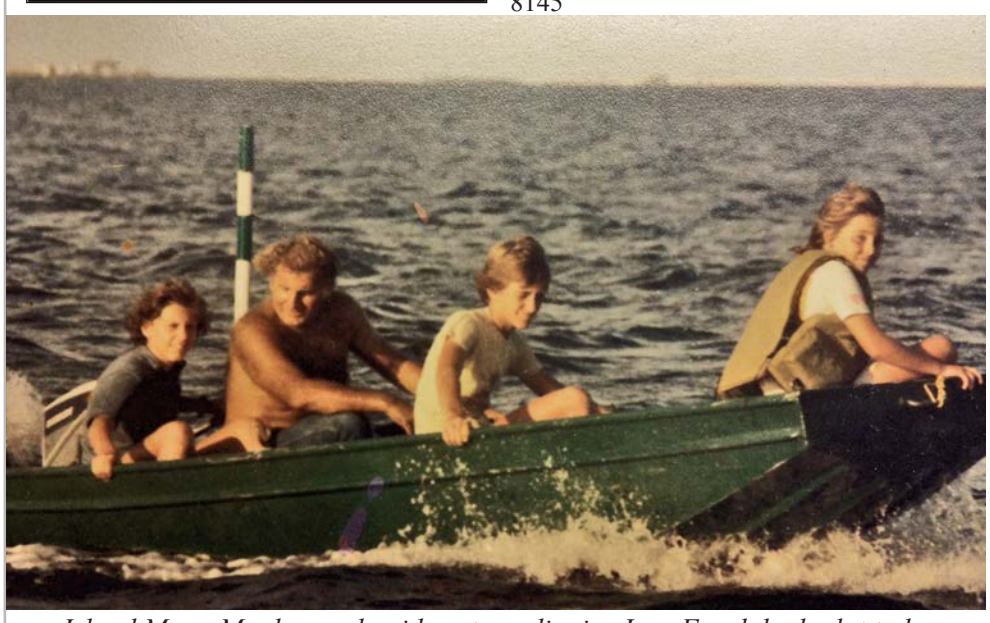

Island Moon Monkey and guide extraordinaire Joey Farah had a lot to be thankful for way back in 1985. He got this beauty, a 14-foot Jon Boat for his eleventh birthday and for the next year paddled his way all around the JFK Causeway and the islands between Flour Bluff and Padre Island. Then, thankfully, the next year he got an 8 horsepower motor for his twelfth birthday and never looked back. That's Joey in the back manning the motor, his dad Joe, his brother Mike up front, and friend Patrick in the middle. From the Island Moon archives.








30 Years of Family, Faith, and Flavor: The Woman Behind Padre Pizzeria

For three decades, the smell of fresh dough and simmering sauce has drifted through North Padre Island, welcoming locals and tourists alike into Padre Pizzeria. This year, the beloved restaurant celebrates its 30th anniversary — a milestone made possible by resilience, faith, and one woman's unwavering commitment to her community.

Padre Pizzeria first opened its doors in 1996, by Ron Estes. In 2004, Lorena, a Venezuelan immigrant with entrepreneurship running through her veins, took over the business alongside her then-husband. "I come from a family of entrepreneurs," Lorena shares. I always knew, somehow, that I was going to do the same. I was just waiting for the right opportunity — and it came wrapped in pizza dough."

When the chance to own Padre Pizzeria arose, Lorena didn't hesitate. Her passion for food, paired with her entrepreneurial spirit, made it feel like destiny

Becoming the Sole Owner

In 2008, Lorena's marriage ended, and she became the sole owner of Padre Pizzeria — now navigating business ownership as a single mother raising her son while running a demanding seven-day-a-week operation.

"It was a lot," she admits. "But I believe God doesn't abandon you in hard moments — He redirects you."

That redirection came gradually. "God started whispering in my ear," Lorena recalls, "and about a year later, He was elbowing me." The message was clear: close on Sundays. Rest. Be present for her son and for herself.

On **January 1, 2012** — which fell on a Sunday — Padre Pizzeria closed its doors for the very first time on that day of the week, a tradition that continues today. "For me, God and family are the most important things in life," she says. "I wanted our team to have that too — a guaranteed day to be with the people they love."

"BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL." MATTHEW 6:33









Feeding More Than Appetites

Padre Pizzeria's impact reaches far beyond its menu. For years, Lorena has partnered with the local charter school on the island, providing lunch for students every Friday. Many of those students have grown up within the walls of the pizzeria — quite literally. Some now work there as employees. Others have gone on to build their own careers, including Lorena's own son, who grew up in the restaurant and is now a successful electrical engineer.

"Watching these kids grow, some even come back to work for me as adults — that's the real reward," Lorena says. "This restaurant isn't just a business. It's part of this community's story." In 2021, she married Kevin Godsey, beginning a happy new chapter filled with love and companionship.

Perhaps one of the most memorable traditions was Padre Pizzeria's Thanksgiving outreach. For ten consecutive years, Lorena organized and hosted a Thanksgiving Day meal, feeding more than 250 homeless individuals from the greater Corpus Christi area — a tradition that continued until the COVID-19 pandemic brought it to a pause. Community volunteers would show up year after year to help serve, turning the effort into a shared act of love. "It wasn't just me — it became something the whole community believed in," she reflects. "That's what family and faith look like in action."

A Love Letter to the Community

As Padre Pizzeria marks 30 years in business, Lorena says this anniversary isn't just about her — it's about everyone who helped build the restaurant's legacy.

"I want this article to be a thank you," she says. "Thank you to this community for welcoming an immigrant with a dream, for trusting us with your Friday nights and birthday parties and family dinners for three decades. You made this possible."

Looking ahead, Lorena hopes for at least 30 more years of serving North Padre Island — continuing the recipes that built the restaurant's reputation, keeping Sundays sacred for family, and finding new ways to give back to the community that raised her up alongside her son.

"God brought me here, gave me this opportunity, and surrounded me with people who became family," Lorena says. "As long as He keeps opening doors, I'll keep making pizza — and keep saying thank you."

1996 Est. — **2004** Lorena Takes the Helm — **2012** The Sunday Promise — **2026** 30th Anniversary

Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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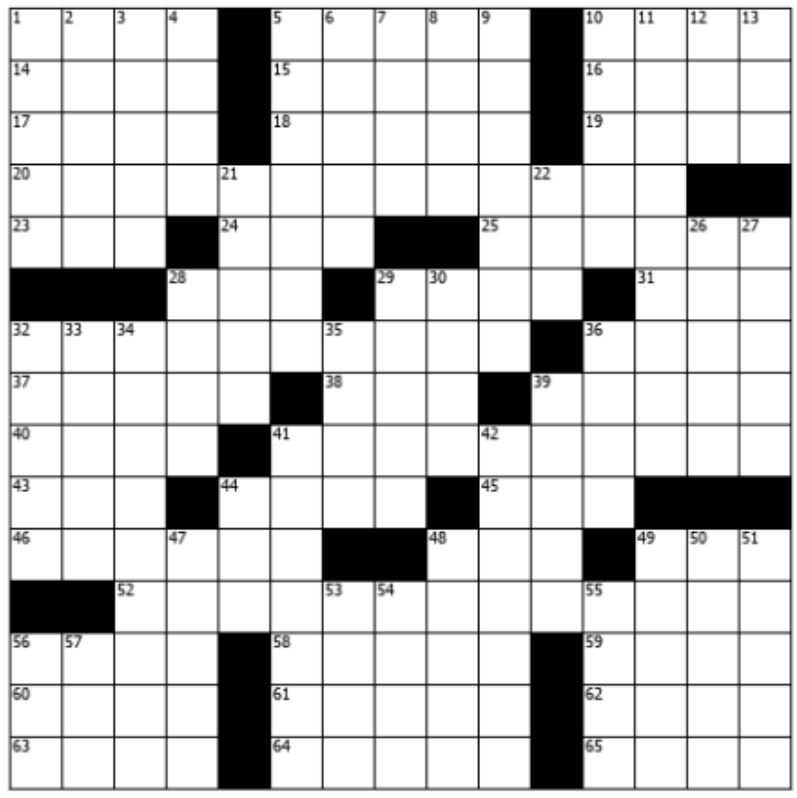
Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page



Across

1. Church area
5. Hideaways
10. Bygone leader
14. Phyllosilicate mineral
15. Follow
16. She pined for Narcissus
17. "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff
18. Dine watching "Jeopardy!," say
19. Archaic adverb
20. City known for dairy products?
23. Apposite
24. Draw
25. How a freelancer may work
28. Notable seashore merchant
29. Papal name
31. R&B singer Cantrell
32. Painter of ears?
36. Birds displayed in the Auckland Museum
37. __ the hole
38. Laugh sound
39. Projecting place?
40. Symbolic cause of impaired ability
41. Sport played in paddies?
43. Cry of approval
44. Great __
45. Nav. rank
46. __ Islands: legendary Fountain of Youth site
48. Catch
49. Comedian Bill, informally
52. Grain that improves personal hygiene?
56. Light ring
58. Dance studio fixture
59. Questionable growth retardant
60. Service ender
61. Aquatic mammal
62. Hip bones
63. Like Felix Unger
64. Works on a lawn
65. Crisco alternative

Down

1. Tiny creature
2. Kind of calendar
3. "Waverley" novelist
4. Down __: Maine
5. More skeptical
6. "The Glory and the Nothing of __": Byron
7. Comparison words
8. Downfall
9. Mailed
10. Winter forecast word
11. Place for clippings
12. Content sounds
13. Hogwash
21. Frome of fiction
22. It may be final: Abbr.
26. More than delight
27. Unstressful and profitable
28. Pet
29. Goon's gat
30. "Of course"
32. Chocolatelike powder
33. Eyes
34. Wasn't that different from
35. Far from obese
36. Footwear for the stealthy, maybe
39. One of a percussive pair
41. Post-shower sight
42. Top lines
44. Genetic info carrier
47. O. Henry device
48. Fidgety, maybe
49. Type of lily
50. Broadcasting
51. Valuable violin
53. March 15th, e.g.
54. Harper's Bazaar illustrator
55. Carp
56. It may be tossed in a ring
57. Bon or mon follower

Gene's Corner



By Gene Saegert

Tips for Holiday Eating

I got this from a professional Holiday eater, sage advice I think.

1 Drink as much eggnog as you can and as fast as possible and as quickly as you can. It is like fine single-malt scotch, it is rare. In fact it is seasonal and rarer than single malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of the year. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnogholic or something. It's a treat, enjoy it! Have one for me, have one for everybody, its later than you think. Its Christmas after all!

2 Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas Spirit. If you see carrots, run next door immediately, where they are serving rum balls and bourbon bars.

3 If gravy is available, use it. That is the whole point of gravy. Gravy is not a stand-alone dish. Pour it on, then add some more. Make a gravy volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

4 About mashed potatoes, always ask if they are made with skim milk or whole milk. If it is skim milk just pass. Why bother, it is like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5 Do not snack before going to the party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas Party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

6 Do not under any circumstances exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time to take long naps, which you will need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10 pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7 If you come across something really good at the buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. It's like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind you're never going to see them again.

8 The same applies to pies. Pecan, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat eat two Pecan. Always three. When else do you get to have more than one desert? Labor Day?

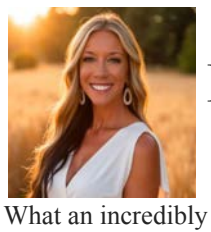
9 Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted it is loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

10 One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention! Re read tips, start over, but hurry; January is just around the corner.

Remember this motto to live by: "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

Thought for the day: Do twins ever realize one of them was unplanned?

Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Busy week for Island Real Estate

What an incredibly busy week for the Padre Island real estate market! As we head into Thanksgiving and the holiday season, it's encouraging to see such strong activity across all three property sectors.

In the detached home sector, three homes entered the option period, while an impressive nine homes successfully closed, making it the most active sector this week. In the condominium sector, four properties entered the option period, and one moved into pending status. The townhouse sector also saw activity, with one property successfully closing this week.

With a total of ten successful closings and seven properties entering the option period, the Island market continues to demonstrate encouraging momentum as we approach the end of the year.

Here, you'll find a detailed breakdown of this week's activity. Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving, and stay tuned for next week's Padre Island real estate market update!

Detached Homes In The Option Period:
-15725 Gypsy St (Listed for $629,900)
-13546 Ducat Ct (Listed for $499,000)
-13805 Mizzen St (Listed for $489,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:
-13910 N Cabana St (Listed for $1,099,900)
-13518 Carlos Fifth Ct (Listed for $685,000)
-13613 Port Royal Ct (Listed for $509,000)
-13726 Eaglesnest Bay Dr (Listed for $499,999)
-15710 Dyna St (Listed for $499,900)
-15213 Tesoro Dr (Listed for $485,000)
-14405 Aquarius St (Listed for $470,000)
-15409 Cuttysark St (Listed for $439,000)
-14950 Topgallant St (Listed for $339,900)

Condominiums In The Option Period:
-14300 Aloha St Unit 101 (Listed for $265,777)
-15209 Leeward Dr Unit A2 (Listed for $265,000)
-14810 Windward Dr Unit 603 (Listed for $249,900)
-14721 Whitecap Blvd Unit 315 (Listed for $175,000)

Condominium That Is Pending:
-15409 Gun Cay Ct Unit 103 (Listed for $139,900)

Townhome That Sold:
-15410 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit 3005 (Listed for $370,000)

Moon Classifieds #1180

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad call: 361-949-7700 or Email your ads to: editor@islandmoon.com
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PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLICATION
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Al-Anon & AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous Sunset 7 AA Group Meets four times per week on North Padre Island
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
7 pm at Island Presbyterian Church,
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion
15820 Park Rd 22.
(In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

Is alcohol causing a problem in your family?
Try Al-Anon
Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm Sundays at Padre Island Baptist Church

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Seniors – single mom's savings available

Around cont. from A1

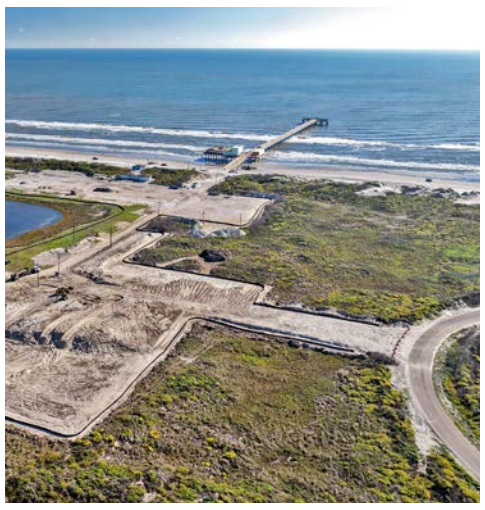
and buy gravel to make the park easier to access. A new shade structure has also been added there that was donated by an Island dog lover. A big thank you from Island Dogs, that is the spirit that made the park what it is. Riley P. Dog would be happy!

RV Park improvements underway



If you have driven Beach Access Road 6 from Sea Pines to the beach lately you can't miss the new construction going on there. The Nueces County Coastal Parks Department secured $7.5 million in RESTORE Act grant money from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement and is almost doubling the number of RV and tent camping sites at Balli Park and adding an open-air pavilion, new roads and infrastructure. When it's all finished there will be 30 new RV sites with full hookups, and 10 new camping sites. The work is in addition to the new Briscoe King Pavilion and new restaurant on Bob Hall Pier both of which are also under construction.

The park will have a new look by Thanksgiving 2027.



La Posada

The La Posada 2026 Lighted Boat Parades are just three weekends away with the Kickoff Party on Friday, December 4 at HardKnocks and the first parade on Friday, December 11. The Friday night parade will once again be televised on KRIS TV and we include the parade route in this edition. The La Posada Foundation is helping the Police Officer's Christmas Angels collect toys for the children in the Corpus Christi area and as always the lighted boat parade needs boats! Go to laposadafoundation.org and sign up. This is the Big One *Around the Island* folks!

Island Blast

The Island Blast 4th of July Fireworks Show has a January deadline to make the down payment on the summer show. There is a change in funding this week as Nick Colosi has discontinued the GoFundMe account and is now using Venmo. Just add Island Blast 2027 in the payment note. You can always make a tax-free donation by check to the 501 (c)(3) Island Blast, Inc. and drop it off at the PIPOA office on Fortuna Bay Dr. This will be the twelfth time we put Fire in the Sky on the 4th of July and the show is funded entirely by donations so pitch in if you can.

Thanksgiving edition

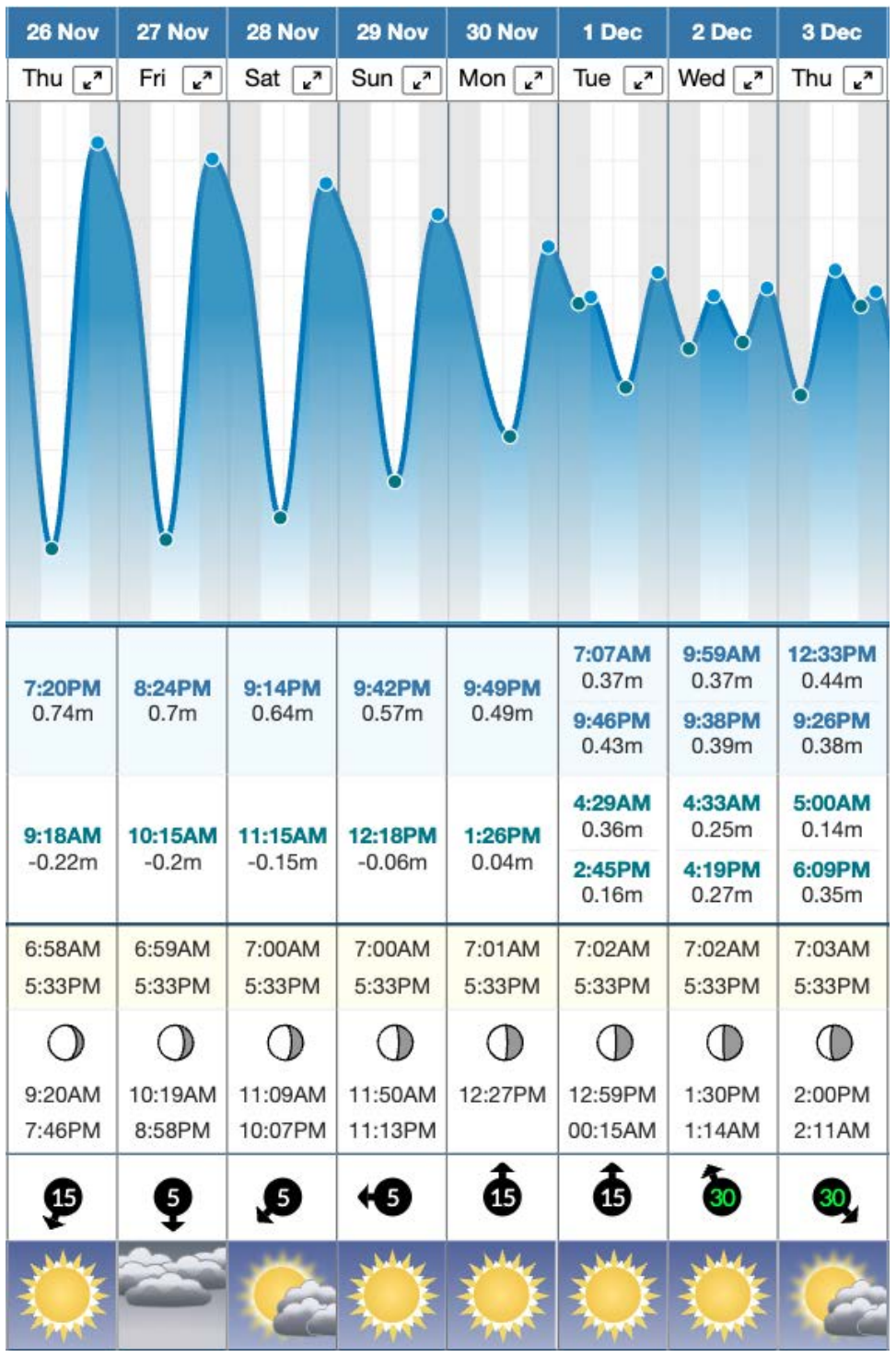
If you are reading this before Thursday afternoon you already know that the Island Moon schedule this week does not change. We print the paper in Mexico now and it turns out the Thanksgiving holiday didn't make it across the border so our Mexican friends stick to the regular printing schedule. They do celebrate Christmas so we will be out a day early for that holiday.

Votin' and fishin'

Early Voting begins Monday and the 8481 registered Island voters have a chance to make their voices heard so it's time to head to the polls. Look at it this way, in this weather there is a mighty fine line between fishing and just sitting there looking stupid so you might as well go vote!

We have a lot to be thankful for here on our little sandbar so have a happy Thanksgiving and say hello if you see us *Around the Island.*

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

Let your mind wander toward hope for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving weekend is an interesting weekend.

Feasting, football, and finding those Black Friday deals dominate. Yet, our minds wander.

What shopping remains? Whose name did I draw in the family gift exchange? When is the golf cart parade? When is the boat parade? What are the parties that I will be attending and when are they? Do I need to bring something? Have I been invited to any parties? Why is that one strand of lights not working?

So much to think about. So much to do. So little time.

For others the weekend starts a melancholy month of increased loneliness, isolation, and grief. Everyone else seems so joyous. Will anybody see me? Does anybody care? Will it get any better? Ever?

Can our minds wander toward hope?

This weekend begins the holy season of Advent. In Advent, followers of Jesus look forward to the future. Even as we look back to the past, while living in the present. We look forward to the return of Jesus when things will be on earth as they are in heaven. We remember and prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ child long ago. This promise and fulfillment intersect in our daily lives as we wait in faithfulness.

Advent is a season of hopeful waiting. We wait for peace and justice, understanding and acceptance, healing and deliverance, wisdom and direction, comfort and strength. Our world is not okay; for many, our lives are not okay. We have been encouraged to believe in progress. Despite evidence to the contrary, we've been taught to think the world and our lives are getting better and better. However, we are not always sure that our faith can endure what our eyes witness each day in the world, in our relationships, in our families, in our lives.

Advent is a period to be nurtured in the hope that God will do for the whole creation what God did for Jesus. We are encouraged in the hope that we have not been abandoned to the mess of our world and our lives. God is at work in the present to prepare the world for a great remaking. We enter December expectant that something is going to happen.

Accordingly, Advent is a time a watching, waiting, and working. To wait, watch, and work is to be patient. Hope without patience results in the illusion of optimism or the desperation of fanaticism. Hope must be schooled by patience. Through patience we learn to continue to hope. Patience requires hope. Without hope patience too easily accepts the world and self as is, rather than what it and we can be, and should be.

To wait, watch, and work is to resist. It is to resist apathy and spiritual depression, resignation to the status quo of suffering, pain and brokenness, injustice and division.

Advent is not about wishing away the present in anticipation of Christmas. Advent is the opportunity to live in the present knowing that Christmas makes the fully embodied presence of love, faith and hope possible. Seen from the viewpoint of eternity, Advent invites and challenges us to watch and see the current breaking in of the realm of God. Peace, joy, love, justice, hope, and life breaking into the misery and the ordinariness of our lives through Jesus.

On the first Sunday in Advent, on a Thanksgiving weekend, Tom raised the subject of Christmas with Sue. Sue was immersed in the full bloom of grief. Her mother had died on Labor Day. This would be the first Christmas without her mom. She didn't feel like Christmas. She knew she was being called to participate. But it was beyond her to rejoice.

Tom reminded her that God is able even if she was not. He mentioned the parable of the mustard seed. God can take the little mustard seed and make something worthy. God can also take the tiny seed of faith and grow it into a realm of hope. Sue went into the kitchen and rummaged through her spices. She found a bottle of mustard seeds. She removed one and grabbed a piece of paper. She taped it to the center.

She returned to the living room and announced she can celebrate this year. She put the paper with the seed on the mantle. It was the first Christmas decoration. Every time she looked at it, she was reminded of hope. She couldn't do it on her own. But God could. God did.

Be drawn into Advent. Be patient, be still, hope fiercely, be present, for deep in the gathering dark, something wonderful is forming. Something beautiful, something for the world's saving waits to be born in us, through us, and around us.

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.

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Pets, Life and Thanksgiving



All of the cats on the bed together

By Katie Green

I'm a cat person – don't get me wrong, I love all animals but I'm definitely a cat person. Until recently I had SIX cats – that's right, six cats. I know that might seem like a lot of pets, but it was pretty easy to get used to having so many fluffy, purring balls of love around. Their names are Samantha, Stinkerbelle "Stinky," Sandy, Mr. Meowgi, Ivan and Nevins. Each has a story, but two stand out.

When I first moved to Corpus Christi, I went shopping at Julian Gold and bought a beautiful cashmere sweater. Within a week or so of buying that sweater I found it on the floor with several holes in it, but I did not immediately figure out how that happened. Did I have moths in my closet? What could be making perfectly round, random holes in my cashmere sweater? About the same time, my family and I traveled to Europe and were in London when my husband discovered that the fringe on one end of his cashmere scarf was missing – we actually wondered whether the hotel's housekeeping staff had cut the fringe off because they didn't like us. It was truly puzzling.

After we returned home, I finally figured out what was happening to our cashmere when I caught the culprit in the act! I walked into my bedroom closet and there he was – Mr. Meowgi sitting on top of my cashmere sweater, purring and eating it! The cashmere sweater that I had just purchased to replace my other (partially eaten) sweater. My beautiful little kitty cat sitting there eating my beautiful little cashmere. Beginning that day, all cashmere in my house went into hiding – I couldn't even wear cashmere around Mr. Meowgi because he would start purring and try to eat the cashmere (literally) off my back.

Ivan the Scaredy-Cat

Fast forward a few years, one morning a tiny little sick baby kitten appeared in the bushes out in front of the gym on Park Road 22. The girls at the gym had put some food and water out – they said they couldn't get the kitten out of the bush because when they tried, he stabbed them with his "little kitten daggers" lol. I immediately called my cat-trapping best friend and together, with the help of one of the maintenance guys next door (to whom I will forever be grateful), we trapped that kitten and I took him to the Island vet – Dr. Tim Tristan at the time. I took that kitten's picture with my phone and texted it to my husband, explaining that we were going to be foster parents to this little guy. He immediately said there was no way I was going to nurse this kitten back to health and then give him away – he was right and that was the day Ivan officially joined our family.

He was so small and so sick – he only weighed one-and-a-half pounds. He had to be quarantined from the other cats for about a week, while listening to smooth jazz and playing with tiny kitten soccer balls in our spare bedroom. Ivan finally got better, joined our family and fit right in. From then on, I always called him my "tiny baby kitten" even when he grew up to weigh 20 pounds – a very big cat with even bigger purrs!

We adopted Ivan at the very end of 2019, so he was a COVID cat who had very little contact with people other than us for many months. As a result, and despite his size, Ivan was the biggest scaredy-cat around. He could sense when we were about to have a visitor and would run and hide before there was even a knock at our door.

Thankful

We recently lost both Mr. Meowgi and Ivan to illness about one month apart. My husband and I were both with them when they passed. Dr. Tristan was also with us when Ivan took his last breath which was fitting because it was Dr. Tristan who saved his life all those years back. I'm writing today as a tribute to my pets and to your pets whose love and companionship make our lives fuller, happier and so much better than they would be without them.

This Thanksgiving I am thankful for the twelve years I had with Mr. Meowgi and for the seven years I had with Ivan. I am thankful for all of my cats who each have their own little quirky and unique personality that fills my heart with love. I am thankful for my family and for each of my friends who also have quirky and unique personalities that fill my heart with love. I'm thankful for all of you who are reading this story today and I am thankful that I no longer have to hide my cashmere.

Snuggle your pets, hug your loved ones and have a Happy Thanksgiving.









Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving yall…



Ray Ann and Ginny enjoy tamales at Shorty's

We finally made it. *Thanksgiving* is here! And it's only 27 days until Christmas and 33 days until *New Years Eve*. So the first thing I did this week was to seek out some tamales. Having lived in San Antonio for many, many years the tradition of eating tamales during the holidays is more than a craving, it's simply what is done. So the first thing I did this morning was to call my friend **Ray Ann Reed**, also from San Antonio, to see if she was selling her homemade tamales this holiday and she was. She makes a variety of them, hot, mild, beef, pork, etc and we made arrangement to meet down at *Shorty's* for me to buy some. The next thing on my agenda was to head to *San Juan's Taqueria* for some enchilada gravy. In my world you can't eat tamales without the gravy. So I took them home to my **Mermaid Gal** and let me tell you, they were delicious and we were then, and only then, ready for the holidays. I am reminded of the time many years ago in S.A. when I was having *Thanksgiving* dinner with a family from the Southside and they were preparing tamales and asked me to go to the store and get them some masa. Man did they laugh me out of the house when I showed up with a bag of flour, which did say masa on the side. I didn't know. But I never felt more like gringo in all of my life. BTW if you are interested in procuring some homemade tamales from Ray Ann you can contact her at portarocker@hotmail.com. I am also compelled to mention that Thanksgiving began as a blend of Indigenous harvest traditions and European days of prayer and gratitude, evolving in the United States into an official national holiday during the Civil War in 1863. Gobble, gobble… And now it's time to watch the *Wizard of Oz* one more time. There's no place like home. There's no place like home.

Scattered shots…



Love Street played Shorty's last weekend.

The local music scene has slowed considerably. Many of the local venues won't pick up the pace until March when spring break rears its ugly head once again. But in my rambling about town I was able to catch a few shows. One of my favorite bands, **Love Street** with the talented lead singer **Lisa Sullivan** played *Shorty's* last Friday to a very receptive crowd. Keep an eye out for this ensemble…they're hot and rocking and destined for greatness. I then ran over to the *Sip Yard* to watch the popular **Groove 2.0** perform a dynamite set of FM faves and then off to the *Gaff* to hear **Orlando Herrera** sing some pretty slow songs. On Saturday blues man extraordinaire, **John Cortez,** pulled out all the stops when he played *Shorty's*. In spite of the weather, he was able to pull in a big crowd. That cat is the real deal and I'm happy that he's starting to get noticed in the big room around the Bend.

Holiday events…

There are a number of holiday events coming your way this weekend. On Wednesday the *Cinnamon Shore Turkey Trot, a* pre-*Thanksgiving* race along scenic seaside courses will be held with five distances, a kick-off party the night before, and a *Vendor Village*. Proceeds go to benefit the *Trinity by the Sea Episcopal Day School*. Also on the agenda both the *Gaff* and *Red's* will host their annual pot luck dinners and you don't want to miss that. And on Sunday the 29th the *Gaff* will sponsor the annual *Turkey Bowl*, which I won in 2012 when it was hosted by the *Back Porch*. When the *Back* Porch closed the tradition was passed on to the *Gaff*. Leave it to **Susan Powell** to come up with such a fun tradition. It's pretty simple really. You stand behind the line and hurl a dead and plucked frozen turkey at a bunch of bowling pins. It's harder than it sound. I'll never forget the time in 2019 when **Lighthouse Rick** slung one first at my head and next completely over the back wall of the *Back Porch*, narrowly missed hitting a fancy sports car on the other side. Envision a 15 pound frozen turkey smacking me upside the head at high velocity… it would have probably killed me. It was his shining moment and he never lived it down



The Groove played the Sip Yard last Friday.



Lighthouse Rick bowled turkeys all wrong.

Coming this weekend…

OK folks, get ready for another great weekend of live music. Coming this Thursday on *Thanksgiving* proper **Brad Ethridge** will be playing the *Gaff* plus *Shorty's* will have their usual Thursday night band, the **Johnson All Starz** with **Art Barrera, Antone Perez** and **Ray Summy**. Those boys have with us for many years and we love them. On Friday the 27th, **Eddie "E.J." Alaniz** will bring that beautiful voice to *Shorty's* from 8-12. Also on Friday **Jason Suthern** will play the *Sip Yard* from 7-10 and our favorite coon asses **Boudreax and Pousson** will get the party started at the *Gaff* from 7-10. There's also a bunch of live music elsewhere in the *Coastal Bend*. Be sure to check out all the upcoming shows in the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box. Coming this Saturday the 28th the *Gaff* will have their bi-monthly and world famous BELT SANDER RACES with everybody's favorite sing along maestro **Coach Big Jim Dugan** providing the tunes. Elsewhere on Saturday cowboy **Todd Dorn and the Sea Drifters** will play *Shorty's* and the BIG ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control,** will play the *Sip Yard* and **Michael Burtts** will play the brand new *Midnight Rodeo* in town. On Sunday the 29th **Brad Ethridge** is back at the *Gaff* and *Shorty's* will have **Coach Dugan** from 3-7 and the incomparable **Ty Dietz** pulling the late shift.

On the horizon…

On the horizon watch for **Darren McGill, Harmonx, John Cortez, Boone, Rockoholics Wade Bowen** and **Bayside Electric.** Yall be safe.

♫♫♫ And, that's the truth ♫♫♫



Red Feather will play Shorty's on Friday.



Boo and Poo will play the Gaff on Friday,.



Cruise Control will play the Sip Yard on Saturday

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thanksgiving, November 26
POT LUCK w/Brad Etheridge @ Gaff
POT LUCK @ RED'S
Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Ty Dietz @ Honey's

Friday, November 27
Red Feather @ Shorty's
Jason Suthern @ Sip Yard
Boo & Poo @ Gaff
Cathouse @ Pelican
English Channels, Lost Control @ Brewster Downtown
Indiglow, Flatbroke @ Rockit's
Kat & the Nat 20's @ Exchange
David Martinez @ Brewster Island
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Southside
English Channels: The Cure Trib @ Brewster Downtown
Randy Hopper @ Sugar Shack RP
Waterline @ Doc's
Carl Hayes @ HardKnocks
Marti Jay @ Anchor Bar
Melissa Ann @ Fajitaville
Daniel Jacob @ Honey's
Ryan Talley @ Sandbox NPI

Saturday, November 28
BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Todd Dorn @ Shorty's
Cruise Control @ Sip Yard
Chainlinks @ Pelican
Dustin De La Garza @ Brewster Downtown
The Klocks @ Rockit's
Alley Catz @ Brewster Island
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Matt Hole @ Exchange
Philip Dean @ Fajitaville
Michael Burtts @ Anchor Bar 1-5
Bayside Electric @ Sandbox NPI
Sean Slater @ Fajiaville
Carl Hayes @ Anchor Bar 6-10
Darren McGill @ Honey's
Michael Burtts @ Midnight Rodeo

Sunday, November 29
TURKEY BOWL 2:00 @ Gaff
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Riptide Cowboy @ Anchor Bar 9-1
Middle of the Road duo @ Beach Lodge
Mike Luna @ Fajitaville
Tate Mitchell @ Anchor Bar 2-6
Stacy n Ken duo @ Sandbox NPI
Melissa Ann @ Doc's

Monday, November 30
John Elijah Band @ Shorty's
Michael Burtts @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, December 1
Brad Etheridge @ VFW
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

Wednesday, December 2
Open Mic @ Gaff
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
US- Penny & Joe @ Pelican Lounge

THE GAFF
BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.
POT LUCK W/ BRAD E. NOV 26
BOO & POO NOV 27
JIM DUGAN NOV 28
BELT SANDER RACES NOV 28
BRAD ETHRIDGE NOV 29
OPEN MIC DEC 1

SHORTY'S
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
RED FEATHER NOV 27
TODD DORN NOV 28
DARREN MCGILL DEC 4
HARMONX DEC 5

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-PLEASURE DANCE CLUB
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Sip Yard
PORT ARANSAS TEXAS
JASON SUTHERN NOV 27
CRUISE CONTROL NOV 28
PHILLIP DEAN WEST DEC 4
JOHN CORTEZ DEC 5
ROCKOHOLICS DEC 11
CATHOUSE DEC 12

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EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY
THE GAFF
LIVE MUSIC
COLD BEER
OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM
HOT PIZZA