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Issue 1124



The
Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996
October 30, 2025
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Snowy egrets feet by Riekie Roncinske



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By Dale Rankin

It came rolling in OTB Wednesday evening like a cool collective washcloth across the Island forehead – a cool front that dropped the humidity faster than the old Harbor Bridge. As you can see from this photo when a cool front comes through, beachgoers at Whitecap Beach come disguised as empty sand.



There is an election on...

If you haven't voted in the election for amendments to the Texas Constitution, early Voting continues at the Island Presbyterian Church through the weekend and on Election Day Tuesday.

The number of registered voters on Padre Island has increased from 6777 in 2010 to 8251 today and that is a high number given the population *Around The Island* of about 10,000 permanent residents. If you aren't registered you still have time before the Party Primaries in March when our vote is going to be crucial in the race for the newly-drawn congressional seat we will be included in.

La Posada on the horizon

The La Posada Lighted Boat Parade is going to be here before we know it and the first event is set for *The Waterline at Doc's* on Thursday, November 6 to benefit the La Posada Foundation. Tickets can be had at Padre Island Cigar Company or online. The boat parades are on Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 barely a month away. We will have more details in the next few issues.

Around cont. on A4

Property Owners Association to issue design request for Island Seagate

Location to be site of previous structure between Packery Channel and Lake Padre

By Dale Rankin

The Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) announced this week it will issue Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for the design of a seagate to restrict water flow during high water events on Padre Island.

The location of the seagate, unless otherwise determined, will be at the

site of the previous seagate between Packery Channel and the entrance to Lake Padre on land owned by the Texas General Land Office and under lease to the City of Corpus Christi.

"We are 85% sure that is the best location for a seagate," said George Reed, President of the PIPOA Board of Directors. "What we need are

details for the design."

Board members said this week that the City of Corpus Christi has informed them it "has no interest in participating" in the design nor the funding of the seagate. A previous proposal to use \$250,000 in funds from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment

Seagate cont. on page A5

Beachcombing Report

Creepy Dolls arrive just in time for Halloween!



Creepy doll found on the Padre Island National Seashore

By Jace Tunnell

Each week during my beach surveys along the Texas Coast, I never know what I'll find washed up with the tide, but one category of discovery never fails to raise eyebrows — creepy dolls. Worn, sun-bleached, and often missing limbs or eyes, these eerie toys have become one of the most bizarre and talked-about finds during my time beachcombing.

Beachcombing cont. on page A5

Follow the money

Island vote crucial in Race for new U.S. Congressional seat

Four candidates raise \$2.5 million

By Dale Rankin

Candidates are lining up for the primary election for the seat in the newly redrawn U.S. Congressional District 34 which includes Padre Island and Flour Bluff.

After the November 2026 General Election neither will longer be represented by current Congress-

man Michael Cloud whose district will include only downtown Corpus Christi, including the port, and a slice across northern Nueces County with the rest of the county in the newly drawn lines of District 34.

The new district stretches from Nueces County through Kleberg, Willacy, Kenedy, and Cameron counties and a check of the metro-

politan areas in the new district finds that about 280,000 of the residents in the new district outside Nueces County are distributed across the cities of the Rio Grande Valley with the majority of the voters coming from the Corpus Christi area.

Congress cont. on page A6

A little Island history

Opening of Corpus Christi Pass Plan from 1967

When the dredging of Packery Channel was approved in 2000 it was the culmination of years of attempts to make a permanent water pass through The Island.

In 1967, the same year Hurricane Beulah cut The Island into more than a dozen pieces and opened the pass, a study was commissioned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to determine the feasibility of opening Corpus Christi Pass on



Corpus Christi Pass

a permanent basis. By 1970 the pass had silted shut but before the plan could be put into effect Hurricane Celia roared through the Coastal Bend and opened it again.

The exact location of Corpus Christi Pass has moved around over the last few decades. What was originally Corpus Christi Pass was actually a series of

History cont. on A4

By the numbers

Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone

Editor's note: The City of Corpus Christi this week released updated numbers for the Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2. Funds for TIRZ #2 are derived from property tax on new construction inside the boundaries of the zone since its creation in 2002. It was renewed in 2022 and now runs through the year 2042. Money raised in the zone is earmarked for improvements inside its boundaries. The zone includes areas on The Island zoned for commercial and retail business, it does not include areas zoned for residential. The numbers are current as of August 31, 2025.

Revenue

\$11.1 million fund balance beginning Fiscal Year 2025

\$6.4 million total revenue year to date 2025

\$4.6 million income from property taxes year to date 2025

TIRZ cont. on page A5

New rules for POA regulation of fences

State law makes changes to property associations' authority

The Texas Legislature in its 2025 session made changes to the Texas Property Code regarding fences around private residences. Senate Bill 711, which modified 2 Texas Property Code §202.023 took effect September 1, 2025, and changes what control property owner associations have over fences.

Under the revised law, Homeowners Associations and Property Owners Associations may no longer completely prohibit security fences on private property as part of a homeowner's right to install "security measures." This includes perimeter fencing for safety and privacy purposes. However, associations may still regulate important aspects of those fences, including:

- Material and design standards: Boards may require certain materials, colors, or styles to maintain architectural consistency.

Fences cont. on A4

Farley Boat Works Wooden Boat Festival 2025

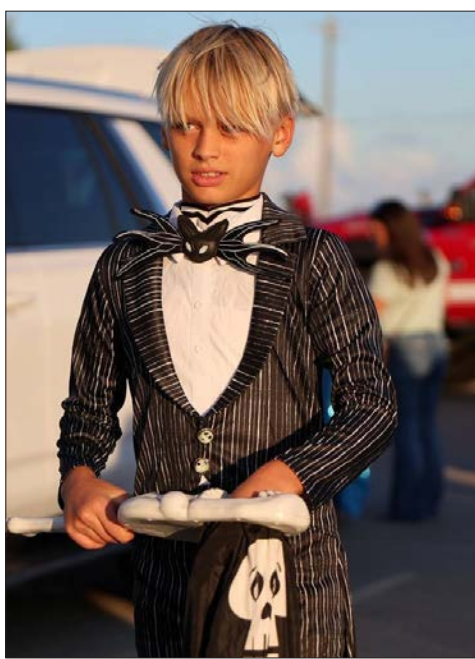
Photos by Dale Rankin

The Port Aransas Wooden Boat Festival, which began in 2014, is an annual three-day family friendly event that features handcrafted kayaks, paddleboards, skiffs and sailing boats — as well as historic Farley boats.



Trunk or Treat

Photos by Debbie Noble



Community Events

MONDAYS

Tanned & Toned

Join Valray on the front lawn for a toning dance and defense class. Great for all ages.

WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

TUESDAYS

Canal Tours

Learn more about the Whitecap NPI community on a guided boat tour through the canals. Scheduled by appointment.

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WEDNESDAYS

Tai Chi & Chai Tea

Experience Tai Chi with Grand Master Mark on our front lawn, then unwind with a locally brewed Chai Tea from Coffee Waves.

WEEKLY @ 6:00 PM

THURSDAYS

Captain's Reserve

Savor cigars from Padre Island Cigar Company paired with a rum tasting by Vida Cana Rum. Gather on the deck or dock.

WEEKLY @ 6:30 PM

SATURDAYS

Sunrise Yoga

Wake up at Whitecap with a guided sunrise yoga class on our front lawn or deck.

WEEKLY @ 7:00 AM

SUNDAYS

Bayview Brush & Bar

An evening of painting, coastal colors, and your drink of choice—guided by Padre Island Art Gallery on our front deck.

BI-WEEKLY @ 4:00 PM



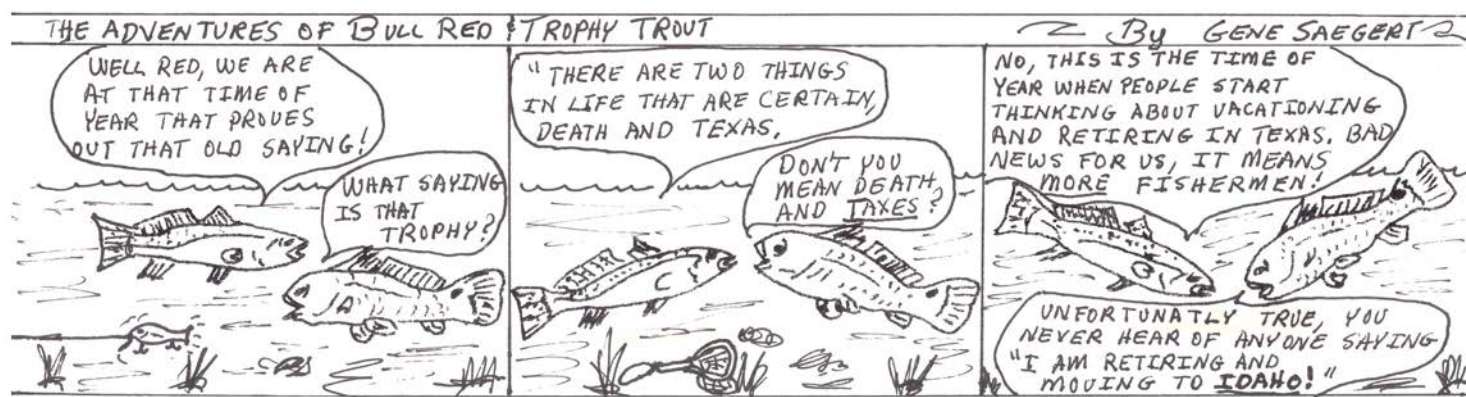
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4.00 PM - 7.00 PM

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Letters to the Editor

◄ AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



What is widest and deepest that Packery Channel – by any name – has ever been?

First off it is not possible to say exactly where Corpus Christi Pass has been located over the years. The current location near Fish Pass is relatively new and is not the same location indicated in writing from Spanish explorers in the 1700's. On a sand island a big blow or a small hurricane can move a pass quickly and often.

Traditionally any pass located near the current location of Packery Channel was referred to as Corpus Christi Pass. That pass, between Padre and Mustang Island has been reported as much as 30 feet deep and one mile wide. A chart of the Texas coast in 1908 showed it to be at least one-half a mile wide and from 25 to 30 feet deep. What is now known as Packery Channel has been open intermittently subject to tides and hurricanes.

At various times when Mother Nature closed it attempts were made to reopen and dredge the pass but Mother Nature always won. The pass that eventually became the ski basin – adjacent to the east side of the 361/Packery Bridge was dredged in 1874 and it was this route which was just to the north of Corpus Christi Pass eventually became the route for Packery Channel. However when Corpus Christi Pass was at its widest and deepest it encompassed the area that included both what is now Packery Channel and Corpus Christi Pass as well.

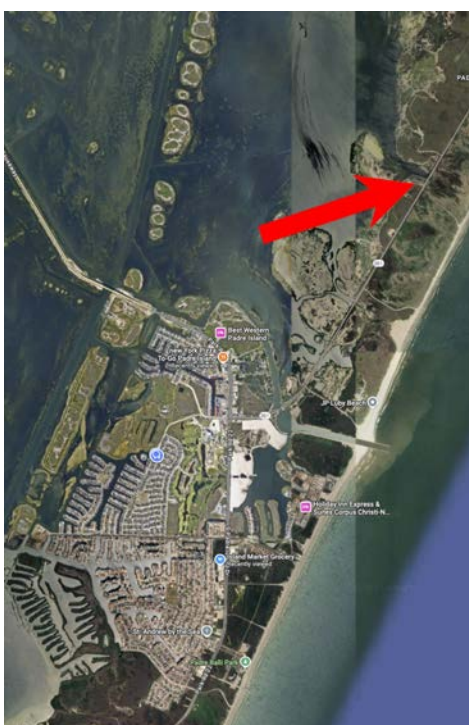
The tidal flow from the Hurricane of 1919 affected tidal flow along this part of the coast and Corpus Christi Pass began to close. It was still used by smaller boats and fishermen and was completely closed by 1933. Only once since then was an attempt made to open it until the building of the Packery Channel.

That was in 1938 when a large suction dredge was put to work but workmen discovered that the pass could fill in as fast as they could dredge it. Finally, according to those who were around at the time, it was the opening of the Intracoastal in the 1940's that changed the water flow in the bay and closed the passes. They were re-opened by various hurricanes over the years but Mother Nature closed them again.

Dale Rankin



Corpus Christi Pass When it was Open



Corpus Christi Pass Location

Donors Beware!

Last week an assault was launched against 1.4 million American charitable organizations. If you give money to charity, you need to know the facts, so this exploitation doesn't reach you, too.

The "crowdfunding platform" called GoFundMe created these dubious donation pages without these nonprofits' approval, authorization, or even knowledge. Aided in part by data from PayPal, the scheme draws upon publicly available tax information and sometimes even uses outdated nonprofit logos. They have gamed the system to rank higher on internet search engines than official donation pages.

The goal appears to be siphoning money from well-intentioned people that may or may not ever reach the intended charity. What is known is that the platform will take a 16 percent platform fee off the top. This includes a standard transaction fee, an extra "tip" for GoFundMe (why?), and an additional surcharge for recurring gifts (why?). At best, the duped donors who give \$100 will have only \$84 reach the charitable mission.

Worse, the charity will never know the donors' identities, so there will be no "thank you" note, no tax receipt, no relationship with the nonprofit, and no recognition will be given for the gift.

Nonprofits are being advised to challenge GoFundMe for its unauthorized charitable solicitations and trademark infringement. Some are reaching out to their state Attorney General (in Texas it's the Charitable Trust section which protects 80,000 active charities) and the Federal Trade Commission.

Advice for donors: Never make a gift through an intermediary; always give directly to the charities you support.

Tom Cullinan

Update: GoFundMe has apologized to nonprofits for its actions. It says it is making nonprofit pages opt-in only by the nonprofit, it is removing unclaimed nonprofit pages from its index, and it will continue to include nonprofits on its directory so they are discoverable and create fundraisers (so GoFundMe can profit from the transactions).

Island obituary

Rhonda Shirey Stewart

With a heavy heart, the family of Rhonda Shirey Stewart, 71, of Port Aransas, Texas must announce the passing of our beloved sister, aunt and cousin on October 11th, 2025, at her home.

Rhonda Shirey Stewart was born in 1954 in Midland, Texas to Raymond and Gladys Shirey. As a child, her parents moved the family to Austin, Texas. Rhonda grew up riding horses around South Austin with her sister, Diana, and water skiing behind the family boat on Lake Austin. Rhonda graduated from Crockett High School in 1974, located in Austin, Texas.

As a self-made professional, Rhonda managed an office for Morgan Drive-Away, a mobile home moving company, and later drove horse carriages for Austin Carriage Company. Throughout the 1980's Rhonda worked as a bartender in the Austin area and later opened her own bars, *The Saloon* and later *Giddy Ups*. In 1998, Rhonda made her way to Port Aransas, Texas while vacationing with family, when she discovered a property for sale. She decided to sell her bars in Austin, make the move to Port Aransas and purchase the future home of *The Salty Dog Saloon* on Alister Street. The original building for *The Salty Dog Saloon* became a fixture on the island, featured in Texas Highways Magazine and in an episode of the hit PBS TV series, "The Day-tripper", until it was destroyed by hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Fortunately, two years later, Rhonda was able to rebuild *The Salty Dog Saloon* and reopen the business to much fanfare by locals and tourists. For nearly 30 years the residents of Port Aransas have embraced the well-known slogan of the *Salty Dog Saloon*, "Remember Da Dog, the Coolest Honky Tonk on the Texas Riviera." Rhonda was also known by her friends and family to be an avid dog lover, poker player and award-winning fisherman.



She is survived by her sister Diana Hurry, brother-in-law James Hurry, niece Blair Hurry and several cousins. She is predeceased by her father, Raymond Shirey and mother, Gladys Shirey. A Celebration of Life will be held in November at *The Salty Dog Saloon* located at 203 N Alister St, Port Aransas, TX 78373. Exact time and date of service will be announced on the official *Salty Dog Saloon* Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/saltydogsaloon78373> In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Salty Paws of Port Aransas via their website <https://saltypawsofportaransas.org/> and click on the "donate" button. Donations can also be made through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SaltyPawsofPortAransas/> and click the link "donate here". Please mail check donations to Salty Paws, P.O. Box 2892, Port Aransas, Tx 78373. Receipts for all donations will be sent to individuals for both those made online and mailed in. If other methods are preferred, please contact SaltyPawsPA@gmail.com or call 361-774 9888.

The Bible and the Constitution

The Bible, in most parts, more, not less, is a set of rules for the whole world just as the Constitution is a set of rules for Democracy of all Americans. If these rules are accepted and used it makes for a more peaceful, prosperous, lifestyle.]For those that oppose those rules, hopefully all patriotic American will join forces with power and vigor to end that movement peaceful without a shot being fired and body getting killed

Amen, said Brother Ben, Peace on Earth and good will toward mankind. God bless America, the home of the brave and free.

Bobbie Kimbrell

D.O.B. 7/11/30

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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History cont. from A1

passes which began at the bay side of what is now Fish Pass and ran parallel to the beach all the way down Padre Island to what is now the end of Whitecap Boulevard. The last remnant of the historic Corpus Christi Pass is Lake Padre. The pass historically was considered the dividing line between Padre and Mustang Islands. That line now is Packery Channel which was originally part of the Corpus Christi Pass system.

But as far back as the 1960s there was an acknowledge need for a permanent water-exchange pass between the Gulf and Corpus Christi Bay. A study was commissioned in February of 1967 by the firm of Turner, Collie & Braden based in Houston and presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in June of that year. The idea of cutting the pass was done in an attempt to reduce salinity levels in the Upper Laguna. It was part of a larger plan to combat hypersalinity in the Laguna. The study concluded that a pass could be cut through Mustang and Padre Islands but jetties would be needed to keep it open in the long term.

The Plan

It called for “heavy stone revetments...to fix the Gulf mouth of the pass and protect it from wave attack.” It also called for the revetments to be at the terminus of jetties which would be a total of 1400 feet in length, bordering a channel that would be ten-feet deep by one hundred feet across on the Gulf side of the beach and sixty-feet wide and seven-feet deep on the bay side.

Fences cont. from A1

- Location restrictions: HOAs/POAs can now prohibit fences in certain areas including sidewalks, easements, drainage areas, or license zones.
- Front yard restrictions: Associations may restrict fencing in front of the front-most building line of a dwelling, unless the homeowner qualifies for an exemption (such as law enforcement officers or persons whose addresses are confidential by law).
- Driveway gate setbacks: If a driveway connects to a laned roadway, the gate must be set back at least 10 feet from the right-of-way.
- Grandfathered and exempt properties
Homeowners who installed front yard or perimeter fences before September 1, 2025, are grandfathered under the previous rules and are not subject to the new restrictions.

<u>Control Area</u>	<u>Authority granted to HOA/POA</u>	<u>Homeowner protection</u>
Prohibiting Security Fences perimeter fencing	Not allowed	Homeowners may always install
Material design, color under architectural guidelines	Allowed	Subject to prior approval
Fences on Sidewalks and Easements	May prohibit	None if fence obstructs access or drainage
Front yard fences	May prohibit unless exempt	Grandfathered or exempt owners may retain
Driveway gates	Must be 10 feet back	Applies statewide

Around cont. from A1

Island street work

The City of Corpus Christi this week released its *Rapid Pavement Program* for 2026 and includes some streets *Around The Island* scheduled for work by the end of 2027. They include:

- Ambrosia from Aquarius to Jackfish*
- Fortuna Bay from Gypsy to the dead end*
- Goldfish from Ambrosia to Jackfish*
- Indigo from Ambrosia to Jackfish*
- Mingo Cay from Mont Pelee to the dead end*

The side slopes would be at a ratio of one vertical to three horizontal.

Heavy stone revetments would run from the gulf end of the jetties to a distance of 1000 feet landward with layers of stone weighing up to three tons and to a thickness of six feet. Lighter stones weighing up to 400 pounds would then be placed inside the rocks from the Gulf mouth to the point where the channel emptied into the bay.

The jetties would be 400 feet apart on the gulf side and extend a mere 400 feet out beyond the beach. The exact length would be determined not by designers but by the budget. The total budget for the project varied from \$2.7 million for 1000-foot jetties to \$5.4 million for 2200-foot jetties with half of the costs being the actual construction costs of the jetties themselves and the remainder for engineering, inspections and labor. Annual dredging was anticipated to cost between \$66,000 and \$100,000.

But over the years as The Island was battered by hurricanes and as attentions shifted to rebuilding rather than new construction the idea for a permanent Corpus Christ Pass was forgotten. Jetties were built at Fish Pass but lost the battle with Mother Nature and sealed shut.

It wasn’t until July 2005 when the tidal surge from Hurricane Emily washed the last plug of sand from the nearly complete Packery Channel that The Island had a permanent water exchange pass.

Dale Rankin

Exemptions also apply to

- Homeowners whose addresses are protected from public disclosure under Texas or federal law.
- Homeowners who can document a security need through a law enforcement agency, such as a credible threat or safety risk. Summary of post-2025 HOA/POA control: 3 Control Area Authority Granted to HOA/POA (2025) Homeowner Protection Prohibiting security fences Not allowed Homeowners may always install perimeter fencing Material, design, color Allowed Subject to prior approval under architectural guidelines Fences on sidewalks/easements May prohibit None if fence obstructs access or drainage Front yard fences May prohibit, unless exempt Grandfathered or exempt owners may retain Driveway gates Must be 10 ft. setback applies statewide.
- An outline of the changes was presented at the monthly meeting of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors meeting this week. It reads as follows:



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Five decades ago the original developers of Padre Island had a choice to make. They could either build sidewalks along the new Island streets they were creating or they could dedicate additional land for parks when they handed The Island and its infrastructure over to the City of Corpus Christi. Having plenty of vacant land and always short on money they chose the latter. The Island has 49.7 acres of parkland scattered across five city parks on Padre Island with some designed to be large enough for placement of a drilling rig. But a check of those parks finds little in the way of improvements in the past five decades with the work about to begin at Commodores Park the most significant in our history, and a new skatepark under development at Billish Park paid for, not with city bond money as in other parts of the city, but rather with funds raised on Padre Island through the Island’s Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2. This all came into focus this week when a press release from the City of Corpus Christi crossed my desk extolling the “Major Parks & Recreation Improvement Projects Completed in FY 2025.” It reads in part:

The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its residents through a range of major improvement projects throughout the city. From the groundbreaking Bill Witt Aquatic Center, marking the most significant expansion of the city’s aquatic program in over 50 years, to the addition of new dog parks, basketball courts, and playgrounds, the city is brimming with opportunities for leisure, recreation, and fitness. Completed Development & Capital Improvement Projects include

Major Projects

- Bill Witt Aquatic Center with two pools
 - Cole Park Plaza Shade Structure
 - Littles-Martin House Rehabilitation
 - Ben Garza Gym Improvements
 - Dr. H.C. Dilworth Park Pavilion
- Maryanne’s Way Park Improvements
- Basketball Court Improvements at:
 - o Dr. H.C. Dilworth Park
 - o San Diego Park
 - o Molina Veterans Park

Two New Dog Parks

- West Guth Dog Park (new amenity)
- Parker Dog Park (new amenity)
- Bill Witt Dog Park (enhanced lighting)

Twelve New Playgrounds

- Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge (playground replaced with shade added)
- Airline Park (playground replaced with shade added)
- Wooldridge Park (playground replaced with shade added)
- Casa Linda Park (playground replaced with shade added)
- Airport Park (playground replaced with shade added)
- South Sea Park (playground replaced with shade added)

- Holly Park (playground replaced with shade added)
- Lamar Park (playground replaced with shade added)
- Patterson Park (new playground with shade)
 - Prescott Park (new playground)
 - Vanderbilt Park (new playground)
 - Caswell Park (new playground)

Major Repair and Maintenance Projects

- Ben Garza Gym Improvements
 - Greenwood Pool Repairs
- North Beach Boardwalk (debris removal, reconstruction further inland)
- Lakeview Park (trellis replacement)
- Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge (bridge, overlook reconstruction, parking lot)

Projects on the Horizon

The Parks & Recreation Department is on track to deliver several highly anticipated improvements in FY2026, including:

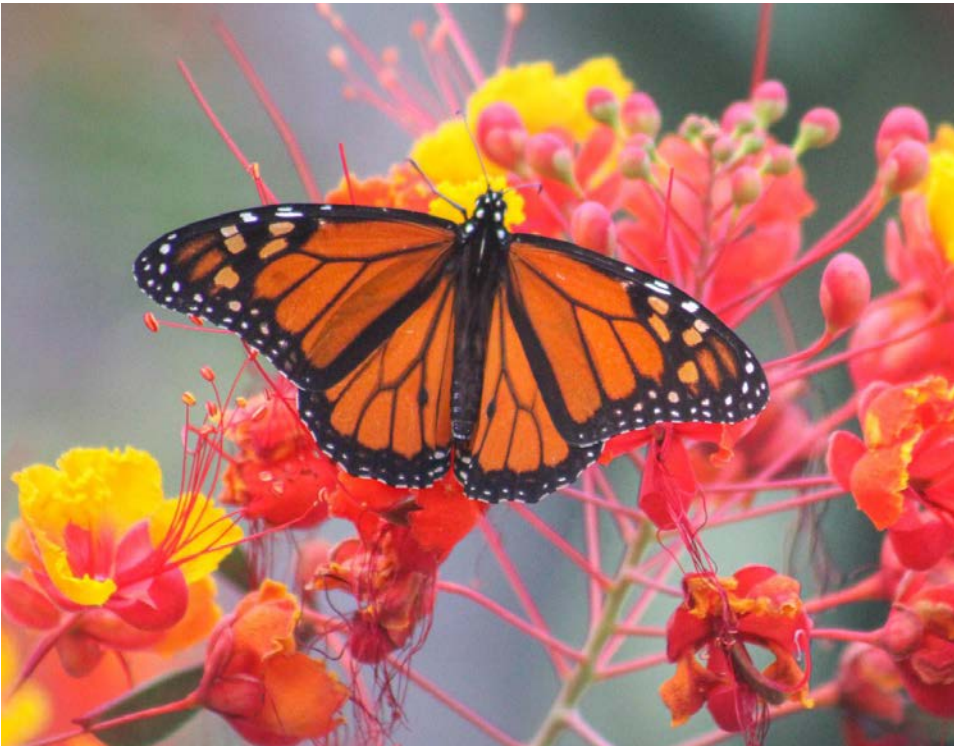
- Sherrill Veterans Memorial Park’s Helicopter Monument
- Harbor Bridge Mitigation Parks (4 parks, one trail)
 - Marina Piers A, B, C, D, & L Reconstruction
 - Marina Peoples Street Boardwalk Reconstruction
 - Greenwood Sports Complex
- Commodore Park Improvements Phase 1
- Zahn Road Lifeguard & Restroom Facility
 - North Beach Eco Park
 - H-E-B Tennis Center Parking Lot Improvements
 - Nutrition Education Service Center (generator)
 - Littles-Martin House Phase 2
- Cole Park Splash Pad Shade and Seating
 - Oak Park Playground
 - Swantner Park Lighting
 - Stonybrook Gazebo Replacement

Go back and look at those again. You will find two on Padre Island. Maryanne’s Way Park Improvements and Commodores Park Improvement Phase I.

They include two new dog parks and improvements to a third, while the Island’s only dog park, paid for solely by donations and mowed by volunteers is not on the list and under Parks and Recreation Department rules not eligible for the Adopt A Park Program. Twelve New Playgrounds, Major Repair and Maintenance Projects, Projects on the Horizon and how many are located on Padre Island? Take a look at the list of bond projects for the City of Corpus Christi included here back to 2012 and count how many of them are on The Island. I won’t belabor this because I think you get the point.

Two things to consider

There are two key points to consider here: First, a list of bond projects, including parks, is expected to be in place by August 2026 to be placed on a November 2026 ballot: Second, that ballot will also include an election for five seats on the Corpus Christi City Council. Is anyone listening?



Monarch Butterfly by Padre Island Madre



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Nature Notes

The White-spotted Puffer Fish

By Kayla Pringle



The White-spotted Pufferfish, Torquigener albomaculosus

As someone who considers themselves a bird person, I’m aware of the many different examples of courtship displays between male and female birds. Courtship displays can include special movements, songs, calls, or physical postures that one or both sexes perform to attract a mate and signal readiness to breed. I previously believed that birds were the only animal group that went to great extremes to impress a mate, but I was wrong.

A perfect example is the white-spotted pufferfish, which has a spectacular courtship display of its own. Males of this species create a large circle on the seafloor using their bodies. This is done to attract females for breeding and usually takes more than a week to complete. As the male shapes the circle, he uses his fins to carve evenly spaced divots in the sand around the entire perimeter. He then gathers shells and pieces of coral to decorate each divot and crafts an intricate maze-like pattern in the center. His hope is that a female will be impressed enough to lay her eggs in the middle of his circle.

In 1995, a photographer discovered one of these mysterious sand circles underwater but had no idea what—or who—created them. After years of observation, scientists finally identified the artist in 2011: the male white-spotted pufferfish.

These sand sculptures are found 10 - 30

meters deep, off the coast of Amami Ōshima Island near Japan. Each circle is about 2 meters wide and usually takes the male 7 - 9 days to finish. Scientists believe this may be the most orderly structure ever built by any fish.

What influences a female’s choice of mate remains somewhat of a mystery. Possible factors include sand composition and color, the size of the circle, and the number of divots and peaks. Some scientists hypothesize that females can gauge a male’s size based on the scale of the circle and the divots—potentially favoring larger males for their strength and ability to provide better protection.

Once a female chooses a mate, they spawn, and she releases her eggs into the nest. Afterward, she departs, leaving the male to guard the nest until the eggs hatch, usually about 5 days later. Once the young have hatched, the male abandons the site and does not reuse the nest.

The courtship behavior of the white-spotted pufferfish is a striking reminder that the animal kingdom is full of creativity and complexity, far beyond what we might expect. Just as birds use songs and dances to woo a partner, these small fish transform the seafloor into a masterpiece for love. It’s a great example of how the drive to reproduce can result in breathtaking creations, even on the ocean floor.

TIRZ cont. from A1

\$6.5 million total expenditures anticipated 2025

\$4 million total fund balance year to date 2025

\$20.6 million total assets

Expenditures

\$6.5 million Briscoe King Pavilion improvements

\$250,000 Packery Channel maintenance

\$6.8 million Capital Improvement Projects

\$14.1 million total expenditures

\$2.5 million earmarked for Sand Dollar Ave. and Crowsnest St. improvements (\$850,000 repurposed for Island skate park)

\$3.9 million in reserve for Packery Channel maintenance



Packery Channel Basin

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Beachcombing cont. from A1



Jace Tunnell holds up a doll covered in barnacles near Port Aransas

People often ask, “Where are these dolls coming from?”

There are plenty of theories. Some think they fell out of cargo containers that slipped off ships during storms. Others believe they were simply lost by children playing at the beach. A few even wonder if they’re connected to La Isla de las Muñecas, or “Doll Island,” in Mexico, an eerie island where dolls hang from trees as offerings to spirits. While that makes for a great ghost story, the real answer might be less spooky but more important.

I believe most of the dolls — and the thousands of other pieces of marine debris we see — are washing in from rivers that dump plastic and trash from all over the world into the ocean. Once in the water, ocean currents, including the powerful Loop Current in the Gulf, transport this debris across vast distances. Here in Texas, we’re in the perfect (or unfortunate) position to catch it all. In fact, our beaches receive about 10 times more marine debris than other Gulf States due to how these currents wrap around and

deposit items along our shores.

While the creepy dolls make for fascinating and sometimes unsettling beach finds, they also serve as haunting reminders of how connected our waterways are, and how far plastic pollution can travel. Every doll tells a story, not just of playtime lost, but of how our trash can impact coastlines and ecosystems thousands of miles away.

So next time you see one of these unsettling faces staring up from the sand, remember: it’s more than just a creepy doll. It’s a message from the ocean about the plastic journey we’re all part of.

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



Creepy dolls in Jace Tunnell's garage just from 2025

Seagate cont. from A1

Zone #2 for a water flow study to determine the best location for a seagate was turned down by city officials. Reed said the early cost estimates for the proposed seagate are “in the \$5-\$7 million range.” He said PIPOA officials “could fund it” but plan to approach adjacent private property owners for possible assistance in funding once the results of the RFQ are known.

“We are working on these details now as well as the alternatives if the stakeholders are unable to assist. They’re level of commitment will determine their level of participation,” said PIPOA Executive Director Rick McGinley. “The devil is in the details. I’m hoping to get the design package ready to go out to industry by the end of November. Shortly after the holidays we should have a design package to review – January 2026. The actual construction build will be tied, in part, to our funding sources and the approval process for the permits. Make no mistake, our charter is to protect this community.” The gate would be designed to keep water flow below 1.9 feet per second, and protect Island bulkheads from tidal surges up to eight feet.

The question of who, or which organization, would determine when to open and close the seagate once it is complete and operational, is currently open. “Contributing factors may come from the National Weather Service or Hurricane Center,” McGinley said. “We also hope to incorporate actual water velocities measured within the canal system as another environmental input. We expect to firm up these details and who actually gets to pull the trigger (close or open the gate) by the time we get to a critical design review but in

all likelihood, it would be handled by local emergency management services.” The move to a RFQ comes after a similar request for a study on the location of the seagate failed to produce qualified applicants within the \$50,000 budget. PIPOA officials said this week that money will be rolled into the new RFQ. The previous seagate at the location now proposed was removed in 2020 at the behest of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That seagate was built in the 1980s and never deployed. PIPOA officials have said previously they want the temporary sand dam currently blocking water flow through Lake Padre and the Padre Island canal system to remain in place until the new seagate is operational. No timeline for the start nor completion of construction on the new seagate has been announced.



The current state of the old seagate area with Lake Padre in the background

The race could be decided by the turnout on Padre Island and in Flour Bluff in both the March primaries and the November General Election when turnout in both areas is traditionally higher than that of Nueces County as a whole. There are currently a total of 8251 registered voters on Padre Island and 14,096 in Flour Bluff. Given the turnout in the 2024 District 34 race those combined votes would constitute about 10% of the total votes in the District 34 race in the November 2026 General Election. Political pundits involved in the race say as much as \$50 million could be spent during the contest.

The voters

- 8251 registered voters on Padre Island
- 14,096 registered voters in Flour Bluff
- 767,981 residents in new District 34 as per 2020 census
- 446,041 residents in Corpus Christi area
- 218,401 registered voters in Nueces County
- 122,339 voted in Nueces County in 2024 General Election
- 21,435 votes cast in Nueces County in March 2024 Republican Primary
- 200,000 votes expected to be cast in District 34 in 2026 November General Election
- 122,000 votes in Corpus Christi expected to be cast in November 2025 General Election
- 53% of voters in District 34 are Republican

Funds raised

- The following number come from campaign finance reports filed by the candidates and are current as of September 30, 2025. Numbers were not available for four candidates.
- \$1.3 million Vicente Gonzales Jr. (Democrat)
 - \$1 million Charles Mandel (Republican)
 - \$754,552 Mayra Flores (Republican)
 - \$550,479 Eric Flores (Republican)
 - \$114,514 Keith Allen (Republican)
 - \$16,920 Etienne Rosas (Democrat)
 - \$16,335 Bam Morales (Republican)
 - \$12,502 Mauro Garza (Republican)
 - \$156 Fred Hinojosa (Republican)
 - \$0 Luis Buentello (Republican)
 - \$0 Gregory Kunkle, Jr. (Republican)
 - \$0 Jay Nagy (Republican)
 - \$0 Eddie Espinoza (Green)

City of Corpus Christi Park Bond Projects since 2012

<u>2012</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$16 million Parks & Recreation	\$12 million parks
Billish park playground improvements (no dollar figure given)	\$250,000 for Douden Park on Padre Island
<u>2014</u>	<u>2024</u>
\$166 million total bonds	11 projects
No parks bonds	\$20 million for parks
\$44.2 million streets	\$1 million design Commodores Park
\$3.5 million beach access road improvements on Padre Island	
\$1.2 million beach maintenance facility	
\$4.7 million island projects – none parks	
\$13 million cost to island taxpayers	
<u>2018</u>	<u>2024</u>
7 park projects	\$175 million total
\$5.6 million for parks	\$37.6 million for parks
\$0 on Padre Island	11 parks projects
	\$5 million Commodores Park
	Design and construction of phase 1A which includes a parking lot with lighting, concrete trail/sidewalk, workout stations, shallow bird pond, covered pavilion, birding pergola, playground, and pickleball courts with fencing and lighting.
	<u>Total parks bonds since 2012</u>
	\$91.1 million total for parks since 2012
	\$6.25 million for Island Parks since 2012



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The Art of Island Life



The Art of Make-Believe: Costumes, Creativity, and Cookies

By Melissa Mitchell



Jones - Ready for Howloween

Every October, imagination takes center stage. Costumes spill from closets, pumpkins glow in unexpected places, and even the air feels a little more playful. Halloween is, at its heart, the art of make-believe—a season that invites us to create, decorate, and delight in the unexpected. We may not have chilly nights or rustling leaves on the Island, but we find our own way to celebrate. Our version of fall comes with sea breezes, painted pumpkins, and an extra dash of whimsy.

The Art of Dressing Up

In my family, Halloween isn't just a night—it is an event that begins October 1. We pull on our comfiest clothes, snuggle in with something warm to sip, and kick things off with our annual *Hocus Pocus* watch party. Our costume contests are fierce, creativity is non-negotiable, and no one ever takes the easy route. There are trophies to win, pride on the line, and a whole lot of laughter along the way—even the dogs get in on the fun. Every costume is an opportunity to become someone—or something—new. My favorites are always the ones with imagination behind them: the handmade, slightly lopsided, sometimes sparkly creations that make everyone smile. It's not about store-bought perfection—it is about keeping the magic of childhood alive, one wild costume at a time. And for my children, Halloween was never just about costumes and candy—it was a full experience. We played games that stretched the fun beyond the front porch. The "Find the Spiders" hunt was always a hit—hundreds of tiny plastic creepy crawlies hidden throughout the house, waiting to be discovered. It was simple, silly, and absolutely perfect for little hands and big imaginations. Now, those same traditions have found new life with my grandchildren. The costume contests may have evolved into themed dinners, and the spider hunts turned into playful scavenger games—but the laughter sounds just the same.

Tablescaping and a Touch of Theater

I channel that same creative spirit into decorating. Tablescaping has always been one of my favorite art forms, especially this time of year. There's something wonderfully theatrical about building a scene—a witch perched beside a flickering lantern, skulls tucked among fall leaves, and plates that practically wink at you with their spooky charm.



Halloween Tablescape Centerpiece

A good table tells a story before anyone even sits down. It sets the stage for conversation, laughter, and maybe a few goosebumps too. Halloween décor doesn't have to be gory or garish—it can be elegant, moody, even beautiful. I think of it as painting with texture instead of color—using glass, candles, and unexpected little details to make magic tangible.

A Little Kitchen Magic

Of course, no Halloween celebration would be complete without treats. My kitchen turns into a mini art studio every October, full of sugar, chocolate, and imagination. Two of my favorite recipes—*Witch's Fingers* and *Mummy Treats*—are as fun to make as they are to eat. The witch's fingers are buttery vanilla sugar cookies tinted green and shaped by hand, each topped with an almond "nail." A quick torching adds just the right amount of spooky charm, and a dip in raspberry jam gives them a ghoulish finish. The mummies, on the other hand, are sweet and simple—Rice Krispies treats molded by hand, drizzled with melted white chocolate "bandages," and dotted with tiny chocolate chip eyes peeking through. They're playful, easy, and guaranteed to make guests grin. You can find both recipes—straight from my kitchen—on my blog at melissamitchellart.com/blog. They're the perfect way to add a little art (and a lot of fun) to your Halloween traditions.



Halloween Treats - Melissa's Witches Finger Sugar Cookies

The Heart of Halloween

What I love most about this season is how it invites our inner child to come out and play. Somewhere between the paint-splattered pumpkins, the candlelit tables, and the trays of edible monsters, we remember what it feels like to create simply for the joy of it. Halloween gives us permission to imagine again—to laugh at the silly, delight in the details, and lose ourselves in a little make-believe. It's not just about ghosts and goblins—it's about wonder, playfulness, and that spark of curiosity we should never grow out of. Because creativity doesn't need an excuse. Sometimes, it just needs a season that reminds us how much fun it is to be a kid again. **The Art of Island Life** will return next week with more stories and inspiration from our coastal community. Have a story to share or an upcoming event? Reach out to me at contact@melissamitchellart.com. Psst... Change is never just about what's new—it's about what feels right and even a bit magical. This next chapter is rooted in creativity, connection, and the beauty of small moments.

"Little hints. Big changes. Can you guess what's coming next?" It's almost time. — Melissa, Padre Island Art Gallery



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Taste of the Island 2025

by Debbie Noble



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15402 Dyna New design by Steve's Homes 4/3/2 plus study on a large corner lot with room for a pool for a pool. **\$585,000** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for a preview!



13941 Flintlock New by Steves' Homes 4/3/2 with inground pool, open floor plan, and ready for move in! **\$610,000** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for a preview!



2317 Nautical Wind Dr. Very nice Southside location, one owner home with open floor plan offering 1456 sqft of living space. 3bed/2bth/2 car garage with large fully fenced in yard **\$269,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



14904 Village Beach Dr. Village by the Beach 1BR/1BTH selling fully furnished, turnkey, and ready to rent or use. Open concept with a charming coastal vibe. Heated pool. 5min walk to the beach. **\$279,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



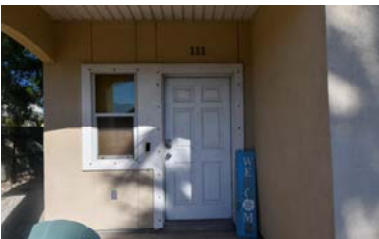
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14861 SPID #111 Village by the Greens is a centrally located island townhouse with an open floor plan, split bedrooms, quartz countertops, and an EV charger in garage! Can be used as a perfect vacation rental! **\$189,000** **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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14813 Leeward #404
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15325 Cruiser St. #A
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Island Outdoors



On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Fall Fiesta

I want to get the word out about the Friends of Padre Fall Fiesta that is taking place this Saturday at the Briscoe King Pavilion from 12-5pm. There will be lots of food and music of course, but there will also be a touch tank for the kids, face painting, and educational booths for all kinds of people. Fellow Moon Monkey Jace Tunnell will be out there with a collection of stuff he’s found on the beach, including creepy dolls. Here’s your chance to visit with Jace and many others, so we will see you out there.

Sharkathon

Sharkathon went off this past weekend, and the waves and current were a little more than predicted. I might have casted a dozen times before finally hanging it up. I did make it down to the Mansfield jetties on Friday however and noticed a few things. The structure in the 40’s and 50’s is gorgeous, and I can’t wait to get down there on a decent day. The mysterious concrete block was there in the 40’s when I passed by, and the park staff had it taped off. I had passed a front-end loader on the way south, and didn’t think too much of it, but while relaxing at the channel, the front-end loader had made it down there and was doing some clearing. That’s the farthest south I had seen one in a while. On the way back, the concrete block was pushed up by the dunes, so good on Park staff. I also saw more rangers up and down the beach than I have seen since the last Sharkathon, as they pay for support during the event.

It wasn’t very “fishy”, so I headed back north to meet up with RoadKill, Tyler, Augs, and BooDan south of Bob Hall. I have to say there were a lot more people up north than down south because the driving was more like slogging and was and still isn’t for the faint of heart on high tide. I didn’t see anyone catching anything, so I don’t feel too guilty about not flogging the water for three days, especially after that cold front Friday night. Capt. Ryan and Curtis went down after and cleaned up beach spiders whether they were from Sharkathon or not. We will have more later on Sharkathon numbers as they come in.



Of course, the days after Sharkathon were pretty good, but of course we always get the best weather during the week. I humped it out to Packery Jetty on Tuesday after work in advance of the cold front to see if the fishing was anarchy, and it was to some extent. There was a river of finger mullet lined up on both sides of the channel ready to begin their migration south. There were fish spraying them out of the water, which is something to behold if you haven’t witnessed that before. It was mostly ladyfish, with a few Spanish mackerel mixed in. I didn’t see any redfish caught, which was what most people were fishing for, unfortunately. I say unfortunately because they tend to fish on the bottom and get tangled up with things and people next to you.



ISAC Updates

The Island Strategic Action Committee will be held this week at the regularly scheduled time on Tuesday the 4th at Wyndham at 5:30pm. There will be the usual updates on beaches and parks, and we will get an update on where Commodores Park and the skatepark at Billish are heading, yay! Craig will give an update from our Area Development Plan subcommittee, and our recommendations for Bond 2026 items from the Island that we’ve been discussing. City staff will be on hand to give an update on the Island Mobility Plan, which I’m really looking forward to. As you loyal readers know, as we get more multi-modal vehicles such as e-bikes and UTV’s on our roads, we need a plan to keep safety to a maximum to avoid injuries and deaths. The Mobility Plan is how we will implement traffic safety in the future.

The first cold front roared through the other night and knocked over a few plumeria and put my cover for my grill out in the middle of the yard. We will rebuild. Maybe by the time you get this, the middle section of the old Harbor Bridge will be down, and we can all get back to what we were doing. I’m looking forward to some fall fishing, although not looking forward to daylight savings time which is this weekend. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we’ll see you next week On the Rocks.



Destroyed shade structures collected after the front last week. Photo Curtis Mai

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Transitions



Derek and Amanda had a beautiful DOUBLE HOOK UP! Nice redfish from the shallow flats north of the JFK on BONE_Dimond DOWN SOUTH LURES! High tides are scattering slot reds all in 2’ of water!

We have to let go of the many glorious Summer Days we are leaving behind. The thought of the cold wind blowing through our souls can make us turn against the change of seasons and holidays in life. I’m choosing this year to embrace the winter as change, letting some things die off, and become the soil for new life. No need to forget the way the sun filled our hearts in the boat, or the smiles and laughter we all shared on the beach and in the water. Those times are burned into us forever, and will come again in good time. I’ll be looking forward to THE CALL OF THE WILD, that stir inside us all that is felt when you brave against the chill. I’ll snuggle under cold sheets and hold on tight to those warm little grandkids. Before you know it the green buds will pop out on the mesquite trees and we will be staring into the rays of sun on those sweet spring days all over again.

The month of November is my favorite time of year! The crowds are gone, the bait masses have dwindled and it’s a little harder for gamefish to find meals. This and the need to fatten up for the cold times drive the fishing to a peak! We will see everything gather around and into the traditional zones out in the bays. These are the changes in depth, bottom structure, tidal flow, and temperatures. Clearly marked on maps the north and south running changes in the Laguna Madre are a great place to start. Drift across the changes finding the specific level game fish and bait are holding them isolate your fishing to impact the beat levels at the prime

lunar feeding times. Simply, use the slow periods to find them, and don’t waste time fishing over the dead zones during prime time. This also goes for taking your days off on slow lunar feeding days, pick the best ones to go and run errands on the slow ones.

These levels of transition can light up with fish activity during different times of day. Some things may dictate availability of food sources at didn’t times. The deeper water may hold shrimp and invertebrates that come out during the night, and have fish active their then, and not at first light. At the same time gamefish feeding up shallow may be taking pin perch in the grass at first light.

MARKER 37 MARINA, has had lots of live shrimp and even some piggy perch now and then. Don’t forget about that beautiful pier around sunset either. Grab some food and go get some of that magical tradition between day and night.

Concentrating on transitions is a good way to find patterns that can show you the big picture. Just as in life we have to use these traditional times to take a look back and ahead, and enjoy the stuff North Wind.

Let’s fish together! Come raise your level of angling, learn to use lures and catch more fish than live bait! Learn how the bays work and have an unforgettable adventure with friends and family! Come feel the CALL OF THE WILD, as we glide along the shallows beside the King Ranch and hunt big fish!

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Soaking up the last of the Summer Sun! Get ready, November is one of the absolute best times of year for GIANT SPECS!

November 8

Create original artwork in time for Thanksgiving



If you are getting ready for Thanksgiving and want to create some original art you are in luck.

The Port Aransas Family Craft Time Step by Step Painting happens on Saturday, November 8 at Roberts Point Park pavilion. It's a painting session that is designed for all ages and they will be painting turkey masterpieces with supplies provided and no experience needed. It runs from 11 a.m. to Noon, for more information call 361 749-4158.

Half a million Texans voted in first week of early voting for the Nov. 4 Election 6130 in Nueces County

Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson this week released early voting numbers for the first week of early voting ahead of the Nov. 4 Election.

Texas counties reported that as of Sunday evening, 561,819 ballots were cast. In-person voting reflected the vast majority of the votes. The vote-by-mail cumulative was 23,510.

In Nueces County as of close of Early Voting Tuesday a total of 6130 (2.84% of registered voters) ballots had been cast. 586 at the Island’s polling place at Island Presbyterian Church, and 490 at the Ethel Eyerly Senior Center in Flour Bluff.

“Statewide, Texans are going to the polls to vote on 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution, and many will also have the opportunity to weigh in on local or special elections,” said Secretary of State Nelson. “Now is a good time for eligible voters to make a plan for voting early or casting their ballot on Election Day.” The cumulative voting number represents about 3% of Texas’ 18.4 million registered voters. These numbers are unofficial and will likely increase as all counties finish reporting.

Early voting in-person runs through Oct. 31, and Election Day is Nov. 4.



Sunset at Padre Island National Seashore By Michelle Walters



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Featured:
Dan Herrington, Vice President, NMLS# 562367



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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

Very Sophisticated Cheating Technologies.

Dotson's Note: How NBA figures and mafia families allegedly stole millions in rigged poker games: "Very sophisticated cheating technologies" X-ray tables. Hidden cameras. Pre-marked cards. Even special contact lenses. Prosecutors say the suspects charged recently in a high-profile illegal gambling bust made use of sophisticated technology to cheat victims out of millions. Thanks to Kerry Breen, Amanda Arden, Jacob Rosen, Anna Schecter and Pat Milton for the facts contained in this report, and to Kerry Breen for the photos.

In a series of arrests recently, law enforcement officers across the country took several big names in NBA basketball and dozens of alleged criminal figures into custody on illegal betting charges. One case focuses on sports betting while another involves allegations of elaborately rigged high-stakes poker games.



Shuffling Machine

FBI officials said at a news conference that the poker ring was operated by organized crime figures from “La Cosa Nostra,” referring to known mafia families. The 31 defendants include alleged members of the Bonnano, Gambino, Luchesse and Genovese crime families, as well as Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups and former player Damon Jones. Miami Heat star Terry Rozier is charged only in the sports betting case.

The poker scheme started as early as 2019, with rigged games played in New York City, Las Vegas, the Hamptons, Miami and other locations, officials said.

“The fraud is mind-boggling,” FBI Director Kash Patel said at the briefing. Ricky Patel, the Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations in New York, said the scheme “cheated victims out of at least \$7 million.” Joseph Nocella, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said the defendants allegedly used a “variety of very sophisticated cheating technologies” to rig poker games with thousands of dollars at stake — and he described some in detail.

Targeting “fish” with “face cards”

The victims of the schemes were called “fish,” Nocello said. They were lured into the games with the chance to play alongside professional athletes, Nocello said. The pro athletes were known as “face cards.” The “face cards” included Jones and Billups, he said.

Those involved, from the dealer to the “face cards,” knew about the scheme, Nocello said.

“Once the game was underway, the defendants fleeced the victims out of tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars per game,” Nocello said.

A “quarterback” and secret information from shuffling machines

Those taking part in the scheme allegedly used self-shuffling machines that had been “secretly altered” to read the cards in a deck and predict which player at the table had the best poker hand, Nocello said. One rigged shuffling machine was obtained at gunpoint, Nocello said. That information

was then sent to an off-site operator who allegedly sent the information via cell-phone to the co-conspirator at the table. The co-conspirator, known as the quarterback, then allegedly secretly signaled the information to other defendants and used that information to win the poker game.

Hidden cameras and X-ray tables

The defendants allegedly used a kind of poker chip tray that secretly reads cards with a hidden camera to analyze the chips that were in use, Nocello said.

They also allegedly used special contact lenses or eyeglasses capable of reading pre-marked cards, and an X-ray table that could read cards even when they were placed face-down, according to the charging documents. Hidden cameras were also built into tables and light fixtures, said New York City Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

“A financial pipeline” for the mafia

Members of organized crime families allegedly got involved because they had pre-existing control of non-rigged but illegal poker games in New York City, Nocello said. They worked to organize the games and took a cut of the proceedings, according to Nocello. They also allegedly worked to enforce the collection of debts, Nocello said.

The games “created a financial pipeline for La Cosa Nostra” — the mafia — “to help fund and facilitate their organized criminal activity,” said Christopher Raia, assistant director in charge of the FBI’s New York Field Office.

Shell companies and cryptocurrencies

The defendants allegedly laundered the proceeds from the rigged games through cash exchanges, multiple shell companies and cryptocurrency transfers, Nocello said.

Technology suppliers

Some of the cheating technologies were provided by defendants named in the indictment, Nocello said. The defendants who did so then allegedly received a share of profits from the rigged games, he said.

NBA’s Rozier and Billups placed on leave

The NBA said in [a statement](#) that it is reviewing the indictments and cooperating with investigators. «Terry Rozier and Chauncey Billups are being placed on immediate leave from their teams, and we will continue to cooperate with the relevant authorities,” the league said. Prosecutors noted in the court filing, “The charges in the indictments are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.”

An attorney for Billups called him “a man of integrity” and said he intends to fight the charges. “To believe that Chauncey Billups did what the federal government is accusing him of is to believe that he would risk his hall-of-fame legacy, his reputation, and his freedom. He would not jeopardize those things for anything, let alone a card game,” the attorney, Chris Heywood, said in a statement, adding, “We look forward to our day in court.”

Rozier’s attorney, James Trusty, said Rozier had previously been characterized by prosecutors “as a subject, not a target” of the probe. “It is unfortunate that instead of allowing him to self-surrender they opted for a photo op. They wanted the misplaced glory of embarrassing a professional athlete with a perp walk. That tells you a lot about the motivations in this case,” Trusty said in a statement. “They appear to be taking the word of spectacularly incredible sources rather than relying on actual evidence of wrongdoing. Terry was cleared by the NBA and these prosecutors revived that non-case. Terry is not a gambler, but he is not afraid of a fight, and he looks forward to winning this fight.”

Continued from last week

A little Island history...

Doc Blankenship Passed Away at age 82 fifteen years ago this week

At 21 he had sailed around the world five times before making The Island his home

The 1980s

During 1980-81, he returned to Okinawa after 35 years, as the Division Surgeon, Third Marine Division, FMF and Force Surgeon, III Marine Amphibious Force, FMF with Headquarters in Okinawa, Japan, where he was the doctor for 46,000 Marines in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

In 1982, he became the Executive Officer and Director of Clinical Services at the Naval Hospital, Corpus Christi and then requested release from active duty in 1983. From 1983-1988, he served in the USNR Active Reserve as the Commanding Officer of Fleet Combat Support Hospital-10; Diving Medical Officer with Special Boat Unit 22 (UDT/SEAL) and as the Senior Naval Medical Officer, NR Headquarters, European Command, US Army, 1985-1987.

Captain Blankenship is a retired military Flight Surgeon, military Parachutist, Navy Deep-Sea Diver and Submarine and Diving Medical Officer, as well as being a Commercial Pilot with Instrument and Multiengine ratings. He has served in several branches of the Armed Forces in the air, on the seas, and under the seas and with the U.S. Marine Corps. Bill has traveled to 90 foreign countries and all fifty of the United States. He served briefly in WWII (Okinawa), China Civil War (ashore), Korean War (at sea), and Vietnam (ashore). He has had Permanent or Temporary Additional Duty and served aboard nine US MERCHANT MARINE freighters, tankers and a troop ship, and 9 US Navy submarines (diesel, nuclear fast attack and fleet ballistic missile), carriers, destroyers, submarine rescue vessels, patrol boats, auxiliary rescue vessels, submarine tenders, and a Vietnamese armed river junk. Captain Blankenship has had a very satisfying, productive and exciting military career!

Dr. Blankenship has taught full time for 18 years in Medical and Dental Schools and part time for three more years. He is a retired Professor of Surgery (with tenure) from the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas. He has American Boards in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Family Practice, and Hyperbaric Medicine.



He has belonged to some 70 scientific societies, published and presented some 150 scientific articles and has been on the staffs at some 40 hospitals, many as an Emergency Room Physician.

Business ventures

During his spare time in business ventures, Dr. Blankenship was involved in farming, ranching, oil & gas, real estate, condominiums, a chemical company, timber production, aircraft sales, charter and flight school, stocks and bonds, shopping centers, restaurants, a car wash, a drug abatement consortium, a sailboat company, a water distribution company, a heavy trucking company; a charter motorboat company and a few other businesses. Dr. Blankenship was Director of Hyperbaric Medicine at Spohn Memorial and Spohn Shoreline Hospitals, and also a recent past Professor and Director of the Dental Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. He belonged to numerous military, flying, diving, medical and dental organizations and served in Medical Missionary Units three times in Central America. His highest military rank is captain in the medical corps of the US Navy, 55 decorations from the Armed Forces and a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. State Department for his service. He lived on Suntan Ave. on Padre Island, 13810 Suntan Ave.



Doc owned the building that housed the legendary 2 Seas Bar & Grill.

Tuesday, November 25

Annual PIE Bake Sale

The Padre Island Enrichment Club is having its annual PIE Bake Sale on November 25, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. PIE organization raises funds for charities and scholarships. The Bake Sale will be located at the HardKnocks Sport Bar & Grill patio from 9 a.m. until they are sold out.

You will be able to purchase homemade pies, cookies, breads, etc. There will also be items such as rolls, cranberry sauce and granola. This event always sells out very quickly.

We are endeavoring to have a large inventory of items. A new item we added last year was Cookies-in-a-Jar. They are quart mason jars filled with the dry ingredients to make approximately two dozen cookies. The jars are decorated for holiday gift giving. They make excellent \$10 gifts for teachers, neighbors, and any others that would enjoy making delicious home-made cookies. Attached to the jars are the cooking directions necessary to complete the recipe.

Please come early to have the best selection!



Monarch with tag at Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve By Britt Thompson

Skipper Tales

Reflections of the Tides

By: Tess Clark

The tide holds a mirror the sky cannot keep,
Waves whisper secrets they promise to sweep.
Each ripple remembers, each shimmer forgives,
A shoreline of echoes where yesterday lives.

The sea shows my face, then pulls it away,
Leaving my thoughts to drift and decay.
But when morning breaks through the glass of the blue,
I find pieces of me reflected in you.

The ocean revises what I try to forget,
Softening edges where sorrow once set.
Footprints of doubt wash out with the foam,
Granting my spirit a place to call home.

Sunlight paints hopes where shadows once clung,
New verses forming where silence had hung.
In every reflection, a promise appears,
That healing arrives to calm all fears.



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Senior moments Special to the Island Moon

Armistice Day (Veterans Day)



By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: *Armistice Day*, later known as **Remembrance Day** in the Commonwealth and **Veterans Day** in the United States, is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, at 5:45 am for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at 11:00 am—the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918—although, according to Thomas R. Gowenlock, an intelligence officer with the U.S. First Division, shelling from both sides continued for the rest of the day, ending only at nightfall. The armistice initially expired after a period of 36 days and had to be extended several times. A formal peace agreement was reached only when the Treaty of Versailles was signed the following year. Thanks to Dotson G. Lewis Sr. and Wikipedia for the facts contained in this report and to Wikipedia for the photos.

The date is a national holiday in France, and it was declared a national holiday in many Allies of World War I nations, several of which have since changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to either Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth of Nations, or Veterans Day in the United States. Italy celebrates the Armistice with Austria on November 4 as National Unity and Armed Forces Day. In Poland, November 11 coincides with National Independence Day.

History in Allied countries

The first Armistice Day celebration was held at Buckingham Palace, commencing with King George V hosting a «Banquet in Honour of the President of the French Republic» (Raymond Poincaré) during the evening hours of 10 November 1919. The first official Armistice Day events were subsequently held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace on the morning of 11 November 1919, which included a two-minute silence as a mark of respect for those who died in the war and those left behind.

Similar ceremonies developed in other countries during the inter-war period. In South Africa, for example, the Memorable Order of Tin Hats had by the late 1920s developed a ceremony whereby the toast of «Fallen Comrades» was observed not only in silence but darkness, all except for the «Light of Remembrance», with the ceremony ending with the Order's anthem «Old Soldiers Never Die».

In Britain, beginning in 1939, the two-minute silence was moved to the Sunday nearest to 11 November in order not to interfere with war-time production should 11 November fall on a weekday. This became Remembrance Sunday.

Commemorations of November 11 were initially focused on honoring the military dead of the First World War and the return to peace. Just prior to or after World War II, many countries changed the name of the holiday, several changed the focus to include all veterans of their armed services, and a few honor their war dead both uniformed and civilian. Most member states of the Commonwealth of Nations followed the earlier example of Canada and adopted the name Remembrance Day. The United States in 1954 changed the name to All Veterans Day, later shortened to ‘Veterans Day’.



Above, Armistice Day celebrations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 11 November 1918

21st century

In the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries, Armistice Day is observed with a two minute silence (one minute in Australia) on the eleventh hour, with the main service taking place on Remembrance Sunday (also known as Remembrance Day). Both days are commemorated formally but are not public holidays. The National Service of Remembrance is held in London on Remembrance Sunday. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales suggested that churches should conduct a Requiem Mass for the dead of the war on Sunday 11 November 2018.

In the United States, Veterans Day honors American veterans, both living and deceased. The official day of national remembrance of those killed in action is Memorial Day, which predates World War I. Some, including American novelist Kurt Vonnegut and American Veteran For Peace, Rory Fanning, have urged Americans to resume observation of 11 November as Armistice Day, a day to reflect on how we can achieve peace as it was originally observed.



Above, Presidential couple of France and Prime Ministerial couple of Spain in the centenary commemoration of the Armistice, 11 November 2018

In France, the holiday may also be known as Remembrance Day (*Jour du Souvenir*). In Belgium, it remains Armistice Day (*Jour de l'Armistice*). The day has been a public holiday in Serbia since 2012. The Serbian forces suffered the largest casualty rate in World War I. To commemorate their victims, people in Serbia wear Natalie's Ramonda as a symbol of remembrance.

On 11 November 2018, the centenary of the Armistice, commemorations were held globally. In France, more than 60 heads of state and government gathered at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Thanks for reading.



American White Pelicans are one of the largest of the boreal birds. They can weigh as much as 30 pounds and their wing spans can exceed nine feet.
Riekie Roncinske

Going Native

Blue Eyed Grass



By Ed Proffitt



Fall is bringing relief from summer heat, even though our short bout of rainfall seems to have abandoned us again to drought. The island's nature, where it's not disrupted by alien plants, asphalt and concrete, is showing nice seasonal blooms and fruiting. Salt marsh plants are recovering some parts of the intertidal zone nicely, but at others, not so much. Some mangroves are reproducing and it's possible we'll have a nice but small crop of propagules to keep their recovery going... at least in our part of Texas. Further north, there's been much less recovery.

Around the island, I've seen a number of individuals of blue-eyed grass (which in showing one clear “problem” with using common names, isn't in the grass family at all but rather the iris family). *Sisyrinchium sagittiferum*, family Iridaceae, is a bit of a tongue twister, but is the name

botanists use. It grows to about a foot tall and produces conspicuous blue or purple flowers. *Sisyrinchium* grows wild in dry and moist prairie and grassland habitats and on disturbed ground like roadsides. You can grow it from transplants or seed in your yard or garden or potted plant areas in full or partial sun. It will do well in dry conditions (or somewhat moist sites too) and tolerates a bit of salt, even some brief flooding by salt water in some places near the intertidal zone. *Sisyrinchium* also grows well in sandy or clay soil, and with organic matter in the soil too. The species attracts many pollinators and is good forage for some herbivores. I've read that some Native American's made a tea by boiling the entire plant and used it to treat hay fever. Include this plant in your yard and you'll be happily Going Native.



Unlike most female songbirds, Female Cardinals are known to sing, often while on the nest to call their mate for food. Riekie Roncinske



Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- 1. Rigatoni, e.g.
- 6. Emeril, for one
- 10. Peer at a page
- 14. Misbehave
- 15. Kind of lamp
- 16. Place for the tense
- 17. Lovers of all things 10?
- 19. Urgent
- 20. Tailor's task
- 21. Act the demagogue
- 22. Promoted boastfully
- 24. Spare, e.g.
- 25. Sportscaster's avoidances
- 26. Word that always brings a smile?
- 29. Oil source
- 30. Opera star Marilyn
- 31. "Rush Hour" star
- 32. Judge
- 36. Term paper abbr.
- 37. What questions do
- 38. Ring studded with diamonds
- 39. Place for a pig
- 40. Retail grouping
- 41. Rock of comedy
- 42. Low-lying areas
- 44. Handymen
- 45. Office fasteners
- 48. Going around in circles
- 49. Like the Mississippi
- 50. Max
- 51. One-time Howard Hughes airline
- 54. "___ in Calico"
- 55. Selected sigh of relief?
- 58. San ___ (Riviera resort)
- 59. Em, to Dorothy
- 60. Delete
- 61. "Jurassic Park" menace, briefly
- 62. Their sole purpose is to have a ball
- 63. Flat fees?

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

Down

- 1. Trodden track
- 2. Pang
- 3. It's on the watch
- 4. Monkey suit, briefly
- 5. Impart knowledge to
- 6. "Crazy" singer
- 7. Guard's shout
- 8. Garden party?
- 9. The far left on the highway
- 10. Less good looking?
- 11. TV's Mrs. Bunker
- 12. See eye to eye
- 13. Important closing documents
- 18. Fabled napper
- 23. Venezuelan export
- 24. Did a shepherd's garden chore?
- 25. Action film sequence
- 26. China problem
- 27. Skelton persona
- 28. Ponch portrayer
- 29. They may get splints
- 31. Blubbers
- 33. British nobleman
- 34. Nefarious
- 35. Army repast
- 37. Back street prowler
- 41. "Waterworld" star
- 43. Cockpit abbr.
- 44. Clinton opponent
- 45. Like a whip?
- 46. Woods with woods
- 47. "It's only ___!"
- 48. Contents of Santa's mail
- 50. Sharpen, as a razor
- 51. Compared to
- 52. Needle point?
- 53. Amazes
- 56. Light property
- 57. Cautionary beginning?

Fifteen Years Ago in the Island Moon

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Election bumper sticker for Blake Farenthold

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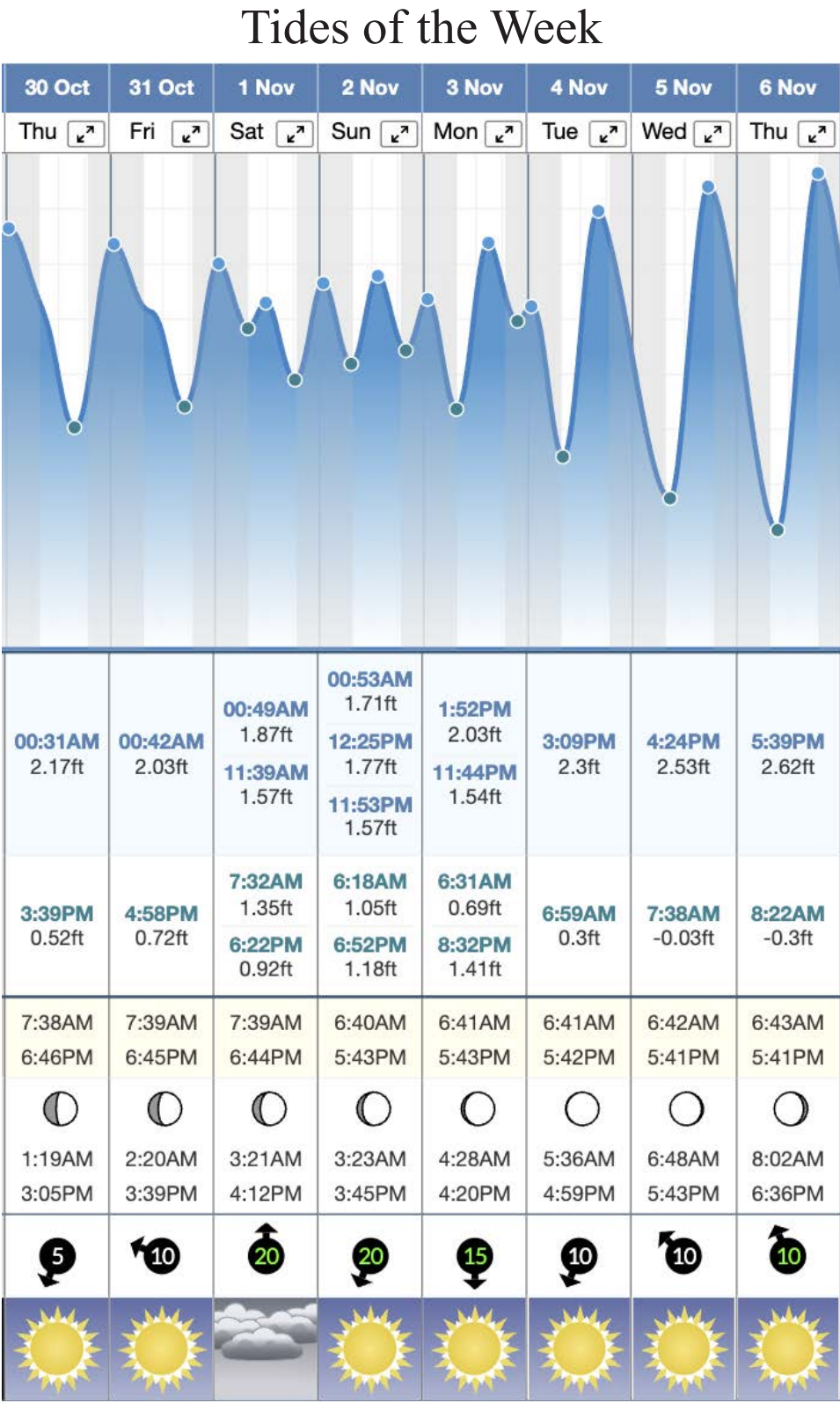
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Crossword Solution

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

Gene's Corner

Return of the Cut Ants



It has been a week of “The Return of The Cut Ants” at my residence. I have had these little plant eating terrorists under control for so long that I thought that I was home free. But Au Contraire my friends, the little night raiders took out a bougainvillea and two oleanders in one evening. Why, why do these relentless ravagers without exception pick only the plants that are my ornamental favorites?

I have fought with these relentless raiders in the Hill Country, in the Brush country around Orange Grove and now here on the coast. These ants put a whole new twist on the line from that song “Oops there goes another rubber tree plant” The only method for me that has been successful at locating their hideouts is night raids. Even torture has never produced any worthwhile leads.

One of the curious habits of these little devils is that they always start at the top of the tree or bush and then work their way down. I have got to give them that, they always leave the easiest part for last which makes sense, maybe they get tired but I just don't think so. But any way I have spent sleepless nights hunting down their supply line and attempting retaliatory raids on their motherland. Annihilation attempts have been short only of mustard gas, nerve gas and bunker busters, mainly because of the fact they are not available to civilians. The National Guard idea fell short also.

Also ruled out by my family was the idea of a flame thrower and probably frowned on by the local fire department any way.

I feel sure that my night of wandering around with my flashlight in the yard and on the street has removed any doubts my neighbors had of my sanity, if that is, there was any doubts left in their minds. Unfortunately even when I find their underground bunkers, nothing legally available seems to take them out. So.... If anyone out there knows of a sure fire methods of taking these guys out, let me know. I will try any FDA approved method and may even consider a method that could be border line questionable. If only they would bring back DDT, that always took out any pests.

Nursery rhymes as told on the South Coast.

"Mary had a little red" (She filleted it)

*Mary watched a little red as it was swim-
ming by*

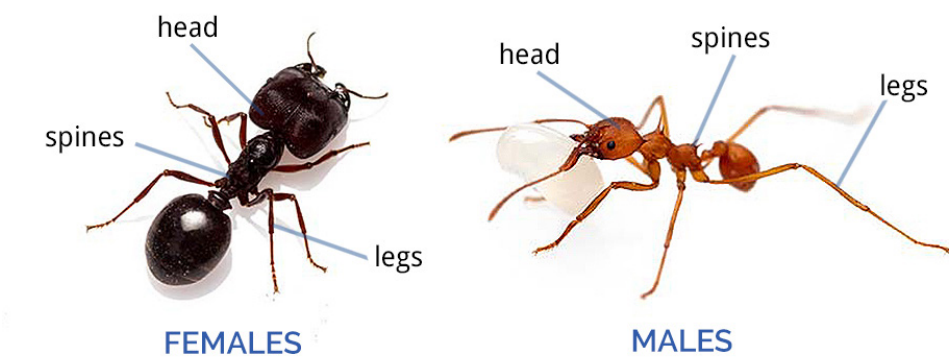
She followed it to school that day

And kept her rod tip high

Mary caught her limit, then said “This is really cool

It's really fun to catch these fish and keep them out of school!"

LEAF CUTTER ANTS



By Debbie Noble.

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*Padre Island 1950s*

The Island 1976



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*Our congregation would like to invite the Padre Island
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We would love for you to join us on Sundays, and look forward
to meeting you at worship.*

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