



www.naturesresorttexas.com
naturesresort@gmail.com
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10201 Monte Cristo Road
Edcouch, TX 78538
956-262-4014

LIVING LIFE NATURALLY



Damage from Hurricane Hanna

Hurricane Hanna Visits Natures

We were warned that Tropical Depression Hanna would be heading our way, but she was expected to be north of us, making landfall in the Corpus Christi area. She was expected to give us some heavy rainfall, but the wind speeds were not expected to be high enough to create any problems. However, as a precaution, our residents walked around the park picking up and putting away anything that might become a UFO in the storm.

As someone mentioned, the weather is like a living creature, and Hanna proved that point. Tropical Depression Hanna morphed into a Category 1 hurricane, and headed directly for us with a fury we were not expecting.

Saturday morning was creepy! Dark clouds were in the sky, but there was not a breath of wind. An ominous silence prevailed.

No birds were chirping. Apparently, unlike us, they knew what was coming.

In the afternoon the wind picked up and by late afternoon the rain came pouring down. A more accurate description would be that the rain fell sideways, for by this time we were experiencing the full force of Hanna and the front section of the park lost power. Later in the night the remainder of the park lost power for a couple of hours, but the front section didn't get their power back until Friday - a full 6 days later.

At around 3 a.m. things quieted down for a bit as the eye of the storm went over us, but once that passed, the back side of the storm hit us, and the wind that had been from the west was now out of the east. And so the storm continued until around noon on Sunday, when people ventured out to see what havoc Hanna had created.

As expected, there were trees down, and branches broken off of trees still standing. Pieces of skirting were scattered around the park as were roof shingles. There will be a number of new roofs in the park as soon as repairs can be made. Various chunks of fence were blown down, leaving us vulnerable to the outside world.



The clubhouse looked like a hurricane had blown through it. Oh wait! Hanna DID blow through it! The strength of the wind managed to break part of the south and west wall from the anchors into the cement. Although the walls did not get blown down, they were shifted enough to let the rain into the clubhouse. When the south wall was shifted it caused the French doors to open, and in came Hanna together with some of the flying debris from the outside! Everything that could fly in the clubhouse flew, including chunks of insulation from the damaged walls. It was not a pretty sight.



The pools were not damaged, but were a real mess. Although the chairs and loungers had been stacked so that they would not blow,

they landed up in the pools anyway. The wind had whipped so many leaves and twigs off the trees that the roads, paths, bottoms of the pools and Kooldeck around the pools were carpeted in green! A big thank you to Tony, Dan and Kelley who spent the best part of a day getting the pools and deck clean. Part of the pool fence was also blown down.

Hanna also attacked Natures' entrance giving us a very scruffy look from Monte Cristo Road. She also did something to the front gate mechanisms causing the gate to continually open and close! The problem has been isolated and it will be repaired as soon as weather permits



A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the clean-up: Mopping up water in the clubhouse and other buildings, sweeping up trash, checking and reporting damage to those who are not here, picking up skirting and replacing it where possible, tightening up the bolts holding down the canopies. Thanks also go to those who were willing to open their houses to accommodate the people who were without electricity. Not having electricity is inconvenient, but during our hot summer weather it is much more than inconvenient. It is needed to survive. Dan and Kelley deserve special thanks for going way above and beyond, spending days working on various projects to get Natures cleaned up.

We had a total of 12" of rain while Hanna raged, causing the usual "flooding" in the usual areas, but by the end of Sunday all the standing water was gone. How fortunate

we are to have such good drainage here. In the two days following Hanna we had an additional 2 inches of rain.

Compared to other areas, we got off lightly. There is severe flooding all around us causing roads to be closed. Many people have water in their homes or the storm caused so much damage that their homes are uninhabitable.

As we dry out and wait for the insurance adjusters to arrive, we give thanks that we are all safe and were spared the devastation all around us.

The downed and damaged trees have all been removed, and we have contractors lined up to repair the clubhouse and the fence, so we are hopeful that it will not be long until Natures is put back together again.

Condolences

We are sad to let you know that Alice (Leroy) passed away. Alice was a feisty lady with a witty sense of humor, and always a smile on her face. We have fond memories of her and she will be missed by all who knew her. We send our heartfelt condolences to Leroy and his family.

Tidbits from Zeus, Natures Proud Cat!

When I was hired for this job, I didn't know it was going to be so dangerous! I'm looking into getting hazard pay, but in the meantime I'll tell you what has been going on.



- I heard that Hanna was coming to Natures and decided that she must be a thief, because everyone was making sure that all their belongings were put inside or tied down! I don't know whether Hanna arrived or not because we had a huge storm, and I terrified and hid away. That storm was absolutely the most scary thing I have ever

experienced. That's why I want hazard pay.

- Just when we were thinking that things were getting better, the Covid numbers went sky high in Hidalgo County, and another "Shelter-in-Place" order was given. That's another reason I want hazard pay. I sure wish that Covid would realize that it is not welcome here and would go away.
- Some time ago, while patrolling the grounds, I found myself walking in water half way up my legs. (See how dangerous my job is!) Were Mel & Randy putting in a private pool behind their house? Turns out that it was a BIG water leak. Luckily Dan, Kelley and Tony were around to fix it.
- Just in case you think that I laze around all day, below is a picture of me hard at work!



- Exciting news is that Chip & Daisy bought a new house. This is the first house to be placed under a canopy which makes it a 'cool' house! Everything is color coordinated and looks really neat. Congratulations on your new home, Chip & Daisy!
- Dan has been hard at work again, this time putting in a water line to RC track so that it can be watered before race time, and hopefully keep some of the dust down. Thank you Dan!

That's all from me. Please stay safe, wear a mask and wash your paws often.

