

GOTTA GO BACK

Editors tackle ways to study, what apps to use and what fashion is in style right now.

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BADGE OF HONOR

Cadets from the DMC Fire Academy received fire pins for graduating.

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Lettuce say farewell, Leo

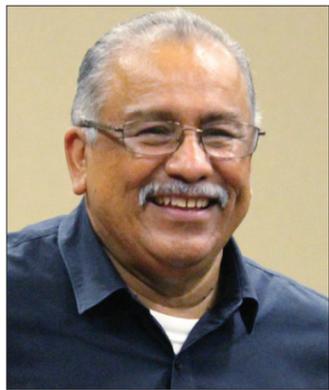
Retirement party held for former food service manager was souper

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For the past 33 years, Leo Rodriguez has been a big dill in the cafeteria and delivered eggcellent service to Del Mar students and staff.

Rodriguez, the now-former food service manager, held his retirement party on Aug. 15 to share with friends and colleagues his memories of his time at Del Mar.

Guests at his party signed words of encouragement and looked through his letters he kept over the years from former



JOHN OLIVA | FOGHORN NEWS
Food service manager Leo Rodriguez was surrounded by friends and family at his party.

clients.

"These letters made me work harder and better," Rodriguez said. "The people I catered to

would tell me they like my work and enjoyed it. From 1988 to this recent year, it's all here and I loved it."

Those at the retirement party in the Retama Room were served fruit, nachos and pulled-pork sandwiches along with sodas and water. On the tables was a centerpiece full of gummy worms to symbolize Rodriguez's love of fishing.

Rodriguez had nothing but praise for his cafeteria staff.

"My people are great," Rodriguez said. "They are hard workers and take care of things down there. I will miss them all

dearly."

Maria Liliana Maltos, who has been working under Rodriguez for six years, said will be missed.

"He's fair, understanding, easy to work with and so compassionate."

MARIA LILIANA MALTOS
CAFETERIA WORKER

"I'm sad he's leaving because he's been a great boss," Maltos said. "Leo's been an amazing boss. He's fair, understanding, easy to work with and so compassionate."

Rodriguez's plans for retirement are simple and relaxing.

"You see those three little girls right there?" Rodriguez asked. "They're my babies. I'm going to go home and take care of grandkids and just take it easy from here on in."

Dorms possibly coming back

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For the first time in almost 50 years, Del Mar College could see the return of student housing.

President Mark Escamilla discussed the possibility of dormitories with the Board of Regents at its Aug. 13 meeting. Regents unanimously agreed to form an exploratory committee to conduct further research on the topic.

"What we're doing here is breaking the ice on the conversations. It's been a long time since Del Mar had housing. Since the very early days Del Mar evolved with housing in mind," Escamilla told the board.

In 1950, Del Mar converted a home into a dorm for five female music students. By 1958, the college owned 13 homes that were converted into housing. In 1963, dorms were built on campus. However, by 1972 the dorms were converted

to classrooms because of the discontinuation of athletics and the need for classrooms.

Rito Silva, vice president of student affairs, presented preliminary documentation on the benefits student housing could bring to the college. In fall 2018, 2,201 students came from outside Nueces County, with 68 from Mexico, Silva said.

Physical therapy student Taylor Martinez drives over 40 minutes to attend Del Mar.

"I live in Woodsboro and would love dorms to be brought to campus. It would be extremely helpful," Martinez said. "I would move into the dorms to reduce my driving time."

Silva mentioned the music department as an example of a department that could benefit from dorms because the department recruits outside of the Del Mar College district for its program.

"Housing will allow us to be more aggressive in recruiting students outside of our service area," Silva said. "Having housing will also increase the collegiate experience for students."

In Texas, 29 out of 50 community colleges offer housing to their students, Silva said, with annual food and housing costs ranging from \$3,850 at Hill College to \$9,678 at Blinn College.

The West, East and Southside campuses were offered as

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New facilities won't open until spring

East Campus project was originally slated to open this semester

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Get ready to break in those new shoes. A delay in the completion of the General Academic and Music Building Phase II means students will still have to avoid the construction zone on East Campus.

The college announced over summer that the building won't be ready until the spring semester. Plans initially called for the building to be ready to move into by May 15 and be opened on Aug. 15.

Del Mar President Mark Escamilla said the delay is because of unexpected situations and schedule changes.

"We are no longer planning to hold classes in the ... building in Fall 2019," Escamilla said in an email in mid-July. "Instead, we will plan to begin classes in that building starting in Spring 2020. This will allow us to focus on student safety and keep confusion to a minimum."

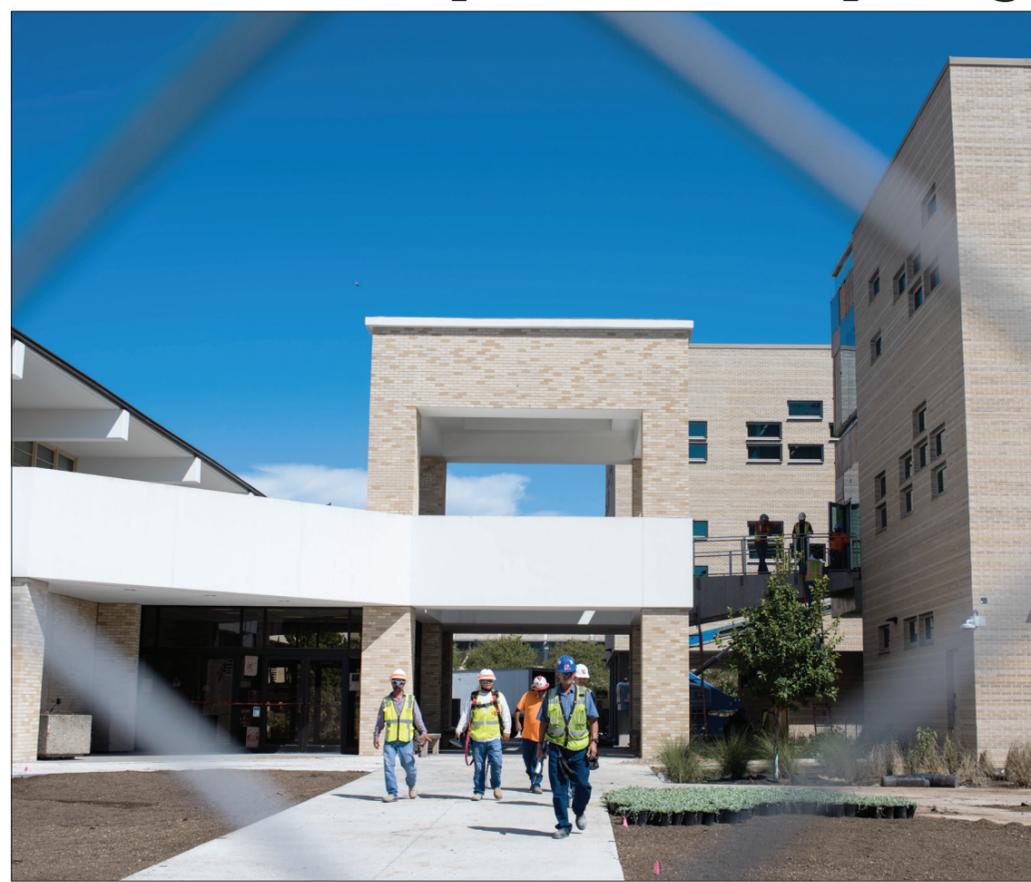
Morgenn Goodwyn, a drama major, said she's annoyed with the setback.

"You have to walk around everything to get anywhere," Goodwyn said. "I used to ride a bike to school, but there are only certain places where you can park your bike. Now I have to park at the history building and walk all the way to the drama building."

Jolie Lassiter, a nursing major, is in her first semester at Del Mar.

"I don't even know where anything is anyway," Lassiter said. "So this construction is making it more difficult for me to find where I'm supposed to go. It's a huge inconvenience."

Attempts to reach August Alfonso, vice president for facilities operations and chief information



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE BLALOCK | FOGHORN NEWS
Construction crews on East Campus are still busy working on the General Academic and Music Building Phase II. President Mark Escamilla said he is determined to eliminate any stress related to the delay.

officer, for more details about the delay and its effects on other planned projects, were unsuccessful.

Escamilla said he is determined to eliminate any stress on the students and faculty because of the delay.

"Departments are encouraged to cooperate and assist one another as much as possible during this transitional period," Escamilla said.

"Thank you for your patience, flexibility and cooperation."

The project, the first of many slated for East and West campuses, is funded by a \$157 million voter-approved bond.



Disability Services opens new office at West Campus

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With an increase in the number of students seeking disability-related accommodations, Del Mar has established a full-time Disability Services Office at West Campus.

Since 2014, there has been an increase of 77 percent in students seeking accommodations through Disability Services on West Campus, the office said. The new office there aims to make it easier for students to get assistance.

Longtime employee Brenda Garcia, a student disability specialist, said it was her top priority to establish a full-time presence on West Campus to make it simpler and convenient for students.

"Students were having to take their lunches to try to go out to East Campus and I know your time is cut short and you don't have a

lot of time," Garcia said. "It's difficult when you have to go to one campus for DSO services, but you're 100 percent of the time on another campus."

The Disability Services Office provides assistance for individuals who may have a physical or mental impairment that can limit major life activities or disrupt their ability to gain an education.

Disability Services provide students with different types of accommodations such as extended test time, interpreters for the hard of hearing, scribes, audio recorders and color overlays.

The office also provides technology such as magnifiers and programs such as Kurzweil, which produces text to speech and helps read material to the student as needed.

They also provide an auditory aid called Compex, which allows the student to wear

FOR HELP

EAST CAMPUS

HARVIN CENTER,
ROOM 188

WEST CAMPUS

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY
BUILDING, ROOM 102

a microphone piece in their ear, while the instructor wears one as well and while the instructor speaks into their mic, it will clear out any distracting noise for the student.

"We try to do our best to stay up with the most up-to-date technology as possible while also following the ADA laws as well," Garcia said.

If ever wanting to meet with Disability Services, students can go online to delmar.edu to make an appointment. Students should also be prepared to bring documentation regarding their disability to the appointment.

The office can be found in the Emerging Technology building Room 102 on West Campus and in the Harvin Center Room 188 on East Campus. They are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays.

"We're a team here, our number one purpose is the students and our number one goal is to serve those students," Garcia said.

If interested in learning more about Disability Services please contact Garcia at 361-698-1731 or bgarcia@delmar.edu.