

FAREWELL MAESTRO

Read about beloved DMC music professor David Irving, and his 45-year legacy.

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HILLCREST TIMELINE

Timeline showcasing the history of the Hillcrest neighborhood.

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Desalination plant sparks controversy



LOLA PONCE | FOGHORN NEWS

Protestors march into the American Bank Center to speak against the city's new proposed desalination plant at a public meeting held by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (TCEQ) on April 18.

Protestors marched into the public meeting held by TCEQ at the American Bank Center

AUBREE CURRAN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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A recent public meeting held by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), at the American Bank Center has sparked protests by various residents within the Corpus Christi community for various reasons.

The April 18 meeting served as an opportunity for the community to speak out about the passing of a new wastewater discharge permit (No. WQ0005289000) which would act in accordance with the plans for the up-and-coming Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant.

According to TCEQ, the proposed permit "would authorize the discharge of water

treatment waste at a daily average flow not to exceed 34,300,000 gallons per day for the initial phase and 51,500,000 gallons per day for the final phase."

According to the protestors however, an agreement for the permit and desalination plant would jeopardize all that Corpus Christi is known for.

"It is really important for Corpus Christi to continue to have a healthy bay ecosystem and I think a lot of our city's identity is our bay, our fishing culture, and all of that attracts tourists," said Del Mar College student Aryeh Lebowitz, who also participated in the protest.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi student Taylor Thorpe, who studies environmental science, quickly realized the dangers after analyzing the threats desalination plants pose on a community in one of her classes.

"One of our very first projects in class was about a desalination plant," said Thorpe.

"We had to consider the endangered species that call Corpus Christi home, we had to

consider indigenous land that we were stealing away, we had to consider the health of our bay, and what we found was that overall, everything just horribly outweighs the negatives."

Among those opposed to the new desalination plant was Corpus Christi City Council member Jim Klein, who spoke at the meeting as President of the Coastal Bend chapter of the Sierra Club, a national environmental organization.

"I think that the science behind desalination is sound, but you also have to keep in mind that it is by far the most expensive way to produce water," said Klein while also detailing his issue with the discharge of brine back into Corpus Christi's closed-bay system.

"There is a seawater desalination plant in San Diego, California, and one in Tampa, Florida. All of those desalination plants discharge their brine into open water. And that's the problem that we've got here is that they wanted to discharge the brine into Corpus Christi Bay, which is a closed-bay system," said

Klein.

He stated it would take the bay approximately 1.4 years to circulate all that water back into the Gulf of Mexico. This constitutes a major problem, according to Klein, as the city plans to build four more desalination plants along with the Inner Harbor location, each dumping large amounts of brine back into the bay.

Klein also shared the concern of many environmental groups, that TCEQ chose not to first conduct an environmental impact study, as typically required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"The study would tell us much more definitively what the environmental consequences of this plant are going to be."

Among the crowd, another group opposing the new plant attended the meeting. Not just to join the fight for their bay, but to continue to fight for their neighborhood.

SEE **HILLCREST** ON PAGES 6-7



LOLA PONCE | FOGHORN NEWS

Above: Co-founder of For The Greater Good, Isabel Araiza, leads the anti-desalination protest at the TCEQ meeting.

Right: Del Mar College student Aryeh Lebowitz holds up a sign in protest of the desalination plant and wastewater permit.



LOLA PONCE | FOGHORN NEWS

"It is really important for Corpus Christi to continue to have a healthy bay ecosystem and I think a lot of our city's identity is our bay, our fishing culture, and all of that attracts tourists."

ARYEH LEBOWITZ
DMC STUDENT

A Neighborhood Under Attack

Hillcrest residents share their story



A Minton Street house sits in front of a Flint Hills Resources refinery. Corpus Christi's Hillcrest neighborhood has become populated by many refineries like it, which many have argued has led to negative health effects for the community.

PAUL FARIAS | FOGHORN NEWS

HISTORY OF HILLCREST

1944

HILLCREST WAS OPENED to African American residents as part of wider racial segregation efforts. Many minorities migrated to the neighborhood.

1950s

COMPANIES STARTED TO BUILD plants and factories around the Corpus Christi neighborhood of Hillcrest.

1960s

TEXAS STARTED BUILDING IH-37, which isolated Hillcrest from the rest of the city.

1972

CONSTRUCTION ON IH-37 IS COMPLETED, and more plants built, creating a hazardous area for residents.

1980s

HILLCREST RESIDENTS SUED the refineries. They won the lawsuit and 100 houses were destroyed for a 'buffer zone' between the houses and refineries.



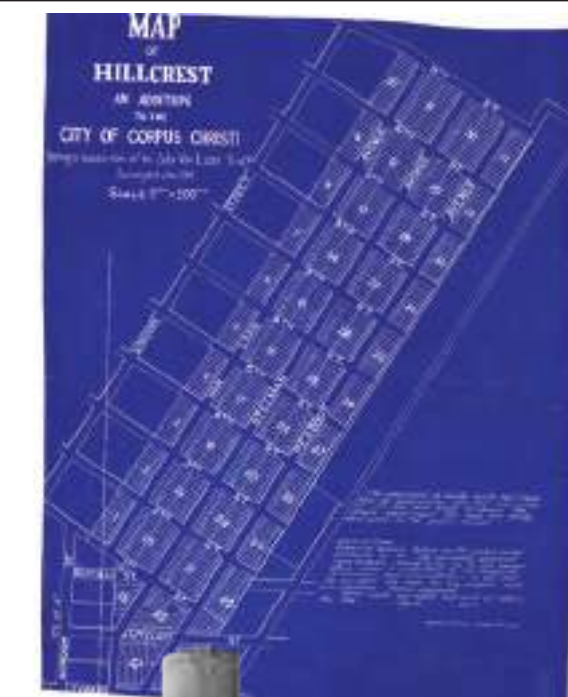
PHOTO COURTESY OF CCPL LOCAL HISTORY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

2003 - 2007

TEXAS WANTED TO BUILD a new bridge to replace Harbor Bridge.

The chosen route surrounded Hillcrest with facilities, the interstate, and the new bridge. It would have separated Hillcrest further.

In response, the Citizens' Alliance for Fairness & Progress, which opposed the project, was formed. It and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid filed a Title VI Civil Rights complaints.



DESALINATION FROM PAGE 1

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Hillcrest, a historically African American neighborhood first established in the Jim Crow-era, is no stranger to the industrialization of Corpus Christi, with refineries prominently located in their backyards.

It's an ongoing issue, accounting for the dwindling number of residents in the neighborhood over the years, and one the remaining residents figured had been settled when the federal government stepped in and offered a housing buyout back in 2015, after a Title VI lawsuit was filed with the U.S. Federal Highway Administration.

A buyout many remaining Hillcrest residents stated simply wasn't comparable enough and one they just couldn't afford in the long run.

"How could you afford the buyout?" said 65-year-old resident Lamont Taylor, as he explained the weight of the benefits not matching up.

"Say you have a 2,100-square-foot property and they decide to offer you a 1,500-square-foot property somewhere else. Is that fair? Is that equitable?"

For Henry Williams, another longtime resident, this neighborhood represents history, and one he simply refuses to leave behind.

"I live in the home that my father built," said Williams who later identified his father as Dr. H.J. Williams. "There are two parks in the Hillcrest neighborhood, and they are both named after my father who was one of the earliest civil rights leaders during the earliest Civil Rights Movement here in Corpus Christi."

Yet, after the chaos of the buyout subsided and the remaining residents assumed the city's industrial projects in that area would no longer take place, the location for Corpus Christi's newest desalination plant was revealed to the public in 2022.

The city's proposed Desalination Wastewater Treatment Plant had been originally labeled as the Inner Harbor project, a much broader term compared to the actual location of the Hillcrest neighborhood. "We were never informed beforehand,

we didn't even know that they considered the Inner Harbor Hillcrest," said Taylor. "We were simply told," said another long-time resident Daniel Pena. He explained the hopeless state many remaining residents were left in, who simply wanted to just piece what's left of their neighborhood back together again.

According to the residents, another shocking factor of the plan was the fact that the city was also planning on building the desalination plant within the neighborhood's designated buffer zone.

"The city had labeled the area as that themselves," said Taylor.

"It's like living next to an alarm clock that never shuts off."

LAMONT TAYLOR
65-YEAR RESIDENT

"They were not to build anything inside the buffer zone, and then the city just decided to do it anyway, without even letting us know beforehand."

Corpus Christi City Councilmember Jim Klein, who also opposes the Hillcrest plant, revealed that the facility could have been located just about anywhere else.

"The water that's going to be generated by this desalination plant, if it's built, is gonna provide water for the entire water system and city."

"So, you could really build the desal plant anywhere they have a water source. You can build it whether it's in the ship channel, you can build it over in Flour Bluff or you can build it along Ocean Drive," said Klein.

"We're convinced that this plant was simply a bad idea for the neighborhood and for the environment," said Williams.

"That it would be detrimental to the Hillcrest neighborhood in the sense that it

will deal with the decrease in our property values. It will also bring additional industrial problems close to contamination and eventually lead to the ultimate contamination of our waters."

As for the decision of this plant being next to a populated area, Klein also shared his opposing viewpoint to the majority of the council.

"It's not for a neighborhood, it's not going to be good for them. There may be air emissions from the desal plant, but at the very least there's gonna be a lot of noise from it as well."

"This is your grandmother, your grandfather, your great-grandmother you are doing this to," said Pena, as he identified the majority of remaining Hillcrest residents as seniors.

"So, who are they ultimately taking advantage of by doing this? The poor and the old."

As many residents see it, this plant is just another issue thrust onto the Hillcrest neighborhood by the industrialization projects of Corpus Christi.

Another issue they simply can't handle, tacked onto the long list of basic quality-of-life issues they are already facing, according to Pena.

"We can't keep neglecting what's going on in our neighborhood. There's corners without lights, people with tarps still over their roofs, even telephone poles falling over that have been that way since the storm of 2017 and still haven't been fixed," said Pena, as he explained the challenge of having to personally move out whole apartment complexes because sewage was backing up into the building.

"We're still trying but we're losing hope. There's nothing for the residents to grasp, the city has not made it available to us, so it's as simple as that."

Ultimately, it is the opinion of Pena and many others that, "desalination is a good idea when it's done the right way."

Which according to residents means not in our closed-bay system and certainly not next to their neighborhood.

As for the claims of some stating that the community of Hillcrest doesn't qualify as an actual neighborhood, Williams says it best.

"We don't allow other people to speak to who we are. We speak, we define who we are, and we are a neighborhood."



"We don't allow other people to speak to who we are. We speak, we define who we are, and we are a neighborhood."

HENRY WILLIAMS
HILLCREST RESIDENT

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

2013

THE PROJECT WAS PUT ON HOLD until a 2013 reconsideration. Of four options, the Red Alternative, which would have gutted the highway in a manner that cut off Hillcrest from the rest of the city, was approved.



2015 - 2016

A TITLE VI COMPLAINT was filed in 2015. The replacement bridge was suspended until a buyout of Hillcrest was enacted by the Port of Corpus Christi.

The Harbor Bridge replacement broke ground on August 5, 2016, with a \$802M investment sponsored by TxDOT.

2022

A DESALINATION PLANT was proposed. It would be built in Hillcrest's buffer zone in between the houses and refineries. In response, Hillcrest residents filed a third Title VI complaint.

2024

THE TCEQ HOLDS a public meeting in the American Bank Center concerning the proposed desalination plant and its required wastewater permit. Many groups voiced their concerns about both.



NEX-BENEDICT

Vigil honoring death of non-binary
Nex-Benedict held in Corpus Christi.

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BANNED BOOKS

Foghorn reporter, Jakob Salinas wrote a
review on popular banned books.

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FROM THE CAGE TO CLASSROOM

PAGE 8



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Welding student lights new path



AUBREE CURRAN | FOGHORN NEWS

Del Mar College welding student, Joanna Tello practices adding filler metal on a plate in her welding booth during one of her nighttime classes on Windward Campus.



AUBREE CURRAN | FOGHORN NEWS

Joanna Tello prepares her welding station and tools for practice during of her nighttime classes at the Del Mar College Windward Campus.

DMC welding student one of few female welders in program

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What's your definition of the American dream? Maybe it's a nice house, maybe it's having your own sky view office, or maybe it's all of the above. But for Del Mar College welding student, Joanna Tello, it's a matter of breaking her generational curse of poor education.

A dream made possible, according to Tello, through the help of Del Mar College.

According to DMC welding instructor, Richard Lugo he estimates there are 10-15 female students throughout the whole program, Tello included.

An unfortunate occurrence as Lugo describes the opinion of many instructors on their female welding students.

"Honestly I think female welders are a lot more attentive to what we tell them to do," Lugo said. "I think female welders are better than male welders."

Yet, before deciding to pursue further education at DMC, Tello revealed the less glamorous path her generational curse had her headed toward.

"My mom crossed over here to give us a better life. My father was born under a tree. The means and the finances were very rough back then, and growing up, I went through that too."

She watched at a young age as her own father was first struck hard by the curse as he was unable to complete his own education and help support his family at the same time.

"Now, I think about it all the time. What my dad didn't accomplish, I want to be able to accomplish," Tello said.

Although temptations did strike hard on Tello's life as she described the obstacles that first blocked her path.

"My husband and I went through a separation at one point, and it led me to seek validation elsewhere. It led me to get into drugs, to get into alcohol."

Going to jail was the life-changing moment for Tello, according to her, when she saw the true colors of the path she was headed toward.

"When everything started to happen, I understood, you know, that this is what needed to happen so that I could wake up and smell the roses, so that I could change my ways."

SEE WELDER ON PAGE 3

Upcoming primary election: What you need to know

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The Primary Election begins tomorrow, March 5. To be eligible to vote in this election, voters must have been registered before February 5. Anyone not able to vote in this Primary election cycle still has time to register for the November general election. Here are a few things you'll need to know before heading to the polls.

According to Paul Gottemoller, Associate Professor of Political Science, the primaries are the biggest fight because it directly influences the outcome of the November election. "It's like a playoff game," Gottemoller said. "It is a battle between candidates trying to keep hold of their current offices, and those hoping to gain new ones."

Texas has an open primary system, meaning that you do not have to be registered with any political party in order to vote in their primary. According to Gottemoller, while the primary may be "Technically open, it is in some ways closed."

By voting in either the Democratic or Republican primary. "You declare party allegiance

when you take that parties ballot," Gottemoller said. "If you want to participate in any of the other parties' activities, you are barred from doing so." This means that if you vote in one party primary and there was a runoff election, you would have to vote in that same party for the runoff election.

Youth voter turnout in 2022 elections in Texas was 21.5%, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. According to Gottemoller, with such a low turnout for young voters, politicians won't be as inclined to appeal to their demographic. "You not participating means that they can continue to ignore you," Gottemoller says. "Once they realize they need to win young people to win elections, then they stare to care about what you think"

It is also important to know what's on your ballot, in order to make informed decisions. You can view sample ballots for your county on the votetexas.gov website or the Nueces county website, nuecesco.com, under the Elections Department tab.

Del Mar College will host three polling locations for this election. At the Oso Creek campus in the Culinary Building Foyer, the Heritage



HAYLIE GODOY | FOGHORN NEWS

Candidate signs are placed outside the Heritage Campus at Del Mar College.

Campus in the Heldenfels Admin Building, and the Del Mar Center for Economic Development. Each of these polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A valid form of identification is needed to be allowed to vote. A Texas Drivers License, Election Identification Certificate, or a United States Passport for example. For voters 18-69 all forms of identification must be cur-

rent, or have expired no more than 4 years prior to voting. Voters over the age of 70 can use any valid form of identification, despite its expiry date.

For more info on polling locations and to view sample ballots, visit the Nueces County website at www.nuecesco.com and navigate to the "Elections Department" tab.

Vigil held honoring death of non-binary student

16-year-old Nex-Benedict passed Feb. 7 shortly after a school bathroom altercation

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Corpus Christi residents stood in solidarity with the passing of two-spirit Dagny "Nex" Benedict at Unitarian Universalist Church located at 6901 Holly Rd on Feb 25.

16-year-old Benedict, who identified as non-binary, pronouns preferred they, them, was murdered after an altercation at Owasso High School, Oklahoma on Feb 7.

Nex's mother, Sue, took them to the hospital after the altercation. On Feb 8 Nex took their last breath.

Volunteer for Nex's vigil, Kelly Macias assisted with greeting and handing out programs, flags, as well as memorabilia of the event.

"I am a trans man. It's important to be here especially for two-spirit Benedict ... It's a solemn event but it's nice seeing the community," said Macias.

Although this incident occurred outside of Texas, many residents who attended Benedict's vigil felt the need for community outreach for those affected as well as those who identify outside the 'norm'.

Christy Stockman, Edifical Officer of the Board of Trustees, felt the need to hold the vigil at the Unitarian church because, having a transgender son, James, she identifies with Sue Benedict and wondered.

"I could have been Sue Benedict," Stockman said.

"My son is transgender. He graduated from Flour Bluff HS in 2019 ... that area has a very far right-winged leadership ... it's the idea that the governor of Oklahoma, the day before this happened, signed executive orders basically erasing intersex babies from existence."

"They want to put things in pretty little boxes, to not be aware that nature is more complex."

"To not give people respect and dignity just



LOLA PONCE | FOGHORN NEWS

On Feb 25 TAMU-CC student Lenny Eileen, pronouns them, gender flued, partiipated in the candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of Nex Benedict vigil held at Unitarian Universalist Christ of Corpus Christi.

for being who they are ... all I could think of is 'I could have been Sue Benedict,' said Stockman.

President of The Pride of Corpus Christi, Jonathan Swindle, began Nex's vigil by emphasizing the importance of allies and advocates within the transgender and non-binary community to speak out against bullying and to stand firm against intolerance.

"Our commitment here is to forge a future where acceptance and understanding aren't aspirations but reality.

We may not all have the same experience, our paths converge in dignity" and equality," said Swindle.

A moment of silence was then held for those who attended following an introduction for each speaker.

One such speaker from the Coastal Bend Trans Alliance, Kitana Sanchez, spoke on the impact of what Nex's death means to the non-binary and LGBTQ+ community.

"We are aware of the impact extremist and

anti-LGBTQ+ community organizations have on our society by perpetuating a narrative where attacks of hate are permitted on trans students like Nex Benedict," said Sanchez.

With a candle lighting ceremony and closing remarks, Swindle encouraged anyone to speak on behalf of Nex and their family as well as any final words.

General Council Secretary at Lipan Nde Tribe of Texas, Wally Ba'itso Daat'ish Azua, sang a song in memory of MMIWg2s, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, girls, and two-spirits called, "Remember ME."

According to a GoFundMe page set up to help the family, Benedicts mother, Sue Benedict, stated, "We at this time are thankful for the ongoing support."

"We are sorry for not using their name correctly, as a parent we were still learning the correct forms ... do not judge us as Nex was judged ... do not bully us for our ignorance on the subject."

You can find the GoFundMe page for Nex at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/dagny-benedict>.

If you know anyone in need of someone to talk to or needs immediate mental health support, call the Emergency Hotline: 361-215-8839.

"Our commitment here is to forge a future where acceptance and understanding aren't aspirations but reality. We may not all have the same experience our paths converge in dignity"

JONATHAN SWINDLE
PRIDE OF CORPUS CHRISTI
PRESIDENT

WELDER FROM PAGE 1

From this, and realizing the importance of pursuing her education, Tello described her accidental transition into welding.

"I was actually doing lashes at home," she said as she mentioned initially wanting to become certified through this.

"I wanted to become fully certified, so I went calling schools around Corpus, but unfortunately, no one was offering a night class."

Due to Tello's busy daytime work schedule, she knew the only suitable option for her to further pursue her education was to

"When I'm in the booth welding...I just think about how far I've come, and how I want to make my parents proud, how I want to make my children proud."

JOANNA TELLO
WELDING STUDENT

take nighttime classes, which is when she learned about the welding program.

From there, she described her first moments walking onto the DMC Windward Campus with her brother and meeting one of the instructors, Willie Herrera.

"I was very blessed to see him that day,"

Tello said. "He was like, 'Yeah, we can get you on right now. We have a program where you get a full ride. They pay for your full semester, and for your tools.'"

"It wasn't hard, because he pointed me in the right direction."

With classes throughout the day to accommodate any type of work schedule, and scholarships for those who need it, Tello revealed the welding program and DMC itself to have provided the ultimate second chance she had been searching for.

"I'm very grateful and blessed that we're able to apply for those scholarships because that helps me throughout my semester."

"That helps me with clothes, that helps me with tools, with gas, with food, and to buy food because it's hard right now," Tello said.

"My kids are very proud of me. They go to school, and when the other kids ask, you know, 'What does your mom do?' They tell them. They tell them she's a welder, and everybody's response is, 'Like a female welder?'"

Tello said, reflecting on her kids' proud changed perspectives on her as a parent.

"When I'm in the booth welding and sometimes we get frustrated because we're trying to get something and it's hard."

"We have to practice and practice, and I just think about how far I've come, and how I want to make my parents proud,



AUBREE CURRAN | FOGHORN NEWS

Joanna Tello practices cutting pipe on the Del Mar College Windward Campus.

how I want to make my children proud." Ultimately, with this certification, Tello hopes to fully achieve her American dream and accomplish what her parents couldn't.

"The vision that I have is to make some-

thing of myself, to not always be from supervisor to supervisor."

"I want to be able to get out there and be my own boss."

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From NFL dreams to healing hands

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Everyone has goals, everyone has dreams, but not everyone has the opportunity to make them a reality.

For Del Mar College student and kinesiology major Ace Navarajo, this statement became his untimely truth after enduring a Friday night high school football game that forever altered his path.

A path, according to Navarajo, that had been set in stone for him since he could remember.

"As a kid, I grew up with big dreams of wanting to play in the NFL," Navarajo said.

A dream that turned into a newfound escape from reality, as he put it.

"If something was happening, I went to football practice. If I had an argument with my family, I would leave the house and go do drills by myself. It was my outlet for getting away from everything, and that was my safe spot."

Safe spot led to fulfillment when Navarajo soon became the starting quarterback for his high school football team, the London Pirates.

As game after game turned from season to season, each win served as fuel for the future, as Navarajo assured himself

ing his passion.

"I was running the ball, and a player tried to tackle me so I leaped over. As I was midair, another player hit me in the head. My body swung to the floor, and my head slammed into the ground," said Navarajo.

"I stood up, and I was spinning. Didn't know at the time what it was called but later on I figured out I was diagnosed with vertigo."

The dazing diagnosis turned his once vibrant dream world into black and white, as Navarajo described the feeling of being taken out.

"It was heartbreaking to me, the fact that I was in the middle of something that brings me so much joy and I had to get removed from it because of an injury," he said.

Not only was this moment heartbreaking, but it had also served as the first time Navarajo had been taken out of a game his entire football career.

"Honestly what hurt me the most about it was we were losing that game so in my eyes, it was like I physically can't help my team pursue this win anymore," he said.

Navarajo spent that offseason training harder than he ever could in hopes of preventing it from returning and despite



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ace Navarajo throwing the football around while playing for the London Pirates in practice during his senior year.

"In that moment I just knew it wasn't about my high school game anymore, it was the realization that I was never gonna play this sport after this season because I physically couldn't."

ACE NAVARIJO
 KINESIOLOGY MAJOR



football would certainly play a major role in it.

"It was never a thought that I was never gonna play at the next level; I always had it in my mind that I was gonna play no matter where it was," Navarajo said.

Upon entering the roaring football stadium in the first round of playoffs his junior year, Navarajo treated it like any other game. Prepared for what was coming, however not for the split-second brutal slap of reality responsible for relinquish-

better judgment, played through the pain into the next season when it did.

"The second game of my senior year, it came back," Navarajo said.

A harsh reality he admittedly didn't truly come to terms with until the fourth game of the season, as he put it.

"The fourth game I was playing I couldn't even see the ball coming towards me. So in that moment I just knew it wasn't about my high school game anymore, it was the realization that I was

never gonna play this sport after this season because I physically couldn't."

Coming to terms with this new reconciled fate was the first step. The other was understanding where Navarajo's new future path was headed.

"Ultimately, I decided I wanted to become a physical therapist because I saw it as me having the ability to help someone else become better to go back out there," said Navarajo.

"Let's say someone broke their leg and this person can only get it done in six months to get back out there, I wanna make it three."

Although his injury caused so much ruin, Navarajo unexpectedly found a second passion throughout his road to recovery.

The path of a healing hand, just as the one he had received from his physical therapist.

"The person that helped me with vertigo taught me different maneuvers to fix it. It would subside but later come back.

But, because of that I knew how to get rid of it again to be normal."

"I just thought that was the coolest thing, like without that person, I wouldn't have made it back to the sport that I love, I wouldn't have been able to play in the next game," said Navarajo.

With the next couple of years of college ahead, Navarajo mentions his unwavering faith with God being his ultimate trusting factor for the unpredictable future.

"At the end of the day, I see it as it's God's plan for me. His plan wasn't cut out for me to play at the next level, but I feel that he is pushing me towards helping people now, and that's what I'm gonna pursue."

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Log on to see **FULL INTERVIEW** of Ace Navarajo

Indoor football league returns to Corpus Christi

Tritons will play at American Bank Center for 2024 season

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The Coastal Bend will be home to a new indoor football team, the Corpus Christi Tritons. The community can look forward to kicking off the 2024 season in March at the American Bank Center.

Kevin Cecil is not only the owner of the Corpus Christi Tritons, but also a law enforcement officer for the city of New Braunfels who has a passion for arena football. Cecil was introduced into the business by a friend who owns an arena football team in San Antonio. During his mentor-

ship, Cecil was given the opportunity to bring indoor football back to the area.

Cecil said he thought Corpus Christi would be an ideal spot because he has family in the area and was here when the Corpus Christi Fury won the championship back in 2014.

"What separates us from the teams before us is that all of the ownership and front office staff is primarily law enforcement or medical personnel," Cecil said.

He said that even though it has been years since Corpus Christi has experienced indoor football, he is looking forward to bringing the community together in a positive way.

Tryouts were held Oct. 29 at Taft High School.

"We were planning to hold a second tryout but the turnout was so good due to

the coaching staff that we have, that everybody wanted to come play with us, and that speaks volume about the coaches," Cecil said.

From tryouts, a training camp roster is built to consist of 40 players. Training camp will be held Feb. 25 to select the final team of 25 players.

The Corpus Christi Tritons will be part of the American Indoor Football league (AIF). The league currently consists of nine teams. The AIF season starts in March and will run through June. The Tritons will begin the season against the Oklahoma Tribe on March 17 at the American Bank Center.

Tickets are available to purchase now at tritonsarenafootball.com/tickets or at the American Bank Center box office. You can also find the Corpus Christi Tritons on Facebook, X and Threads.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The logo and mascot for the upcoming season that begins in March.

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EDITORIAL



ELLIOTT HOPPIS | FOGHORN NEWS

Teacher pay disparity reflects on students

While tuition costs are rising, professors' salaries are lowering. Colleges and Universities do this by using adjuncts to teach more and more courses.

At Del Mar College, for the 2022-23 academic year, out of 707 professors, 389 of them taught adjunctly, or part time.

This number is more than half of the whole professor population at DMC. Now, while the majority of DMC staff consist of adjunct members, they certainly don't receive the treatment to reflect this.

In fact, they hardly receive any. Adjunct staff members receive no benefits, are severely underpaid, have less job security, and usually have reduced accommodations on the campus; such as not having an office.

If you are a student, you may be wondering how this might affect you and your education. The honest answer is more shocking than you might think.

Teachers who don't get paid enough most likely have to get a second job.

Teachers who get a second job spread themselves thinner than those who don't. Teachers who spread themselves thinner tire easier. Finally, teachers who tire easier are not focused on the obvious number one priority at hand when it comes to teaching; the priority of education.

In short, when teachers are put into a bind economically and not remunerated for their out of classroom time, their capacity for their students is greatly reduced. This chain reaction of events reflects a fallen value system that will sacrifice quality in education for extra money.

Therefore, if you've had professors that didn't have time for you, or weren't able to get feedback to you on time, or were absentminded or stressed, the reasons might be a consequence of this issue.

The solution to this problem is obviously radical change in the colleges themselves; but

how do we go about tackling a multibillion dollar policy?

There are many ways to tackle this issue, but the simplest and quickest way to fix it starts by raising awareness. Posting about it on social media, contacting your schools chief financial officers and educational board members, even talking about it amongst your peers.

Now, while you may be thinking there's no chance of inciting change as just one small person, you're wrong. The beauty of the technological world we live in today is the fact that it has never been easier to do so. All it takes is one click of a button to share or repost something online, and a couple of clicks later, that repost might just go viral.

True change could occur by these methods, yet they are only made possible by education and awareness. The kind which starts with just one person, you.

We live in a world where adjunct teaching is so ingrained and normalized, even more so at Del Mar College. If this devaluing of teachers continues on, where will it end?

With our very own education on the line, it is our moral responsibility, as students, to ensure the very protection of it.

Otherwise, if we continue down the winding path of trading quality in education for extra money, the consequence will only result in the greatest loss both ways.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be no more than 150 words in length, must be signed, and are subject to editing for grammar and content.

Send emails to letters@foghornnews.com

Send letters to the Foghorn News office: GAMB Rm. D101, 101 Baldwin Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78404

ASK THE VIKINGS

QUESTION: WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR AND WHY?



"Rupp is a really good professor, he gets the students to get up to the board and do the problems on their own rather than just explaining. He involves the whole class."

— Evelyn Casares, Pre-Med



"My favorite professor is my English professor West because he has a personality like no other and he's very informative when he teaches and really easy to understand."

— Callista Torres, Nursing



"Dr Emily Stwert, it's not as much teaching as it is getting you to think out of your comfort zone. She's extremely knowledgeable about a lot of things."

— Jasmine Yates, Computer Program



"Catherine Albert. I like her classes, it's a lot but she really teaches you about the political process and how government works, and how it's actually supposed to work."

— Christopher Diaz, Political Science



"My reading professor, she's very good at getting people to understand the lesson. She teaches us about what it means to have a successful paper."

— Ace Lacour, Psychology



"I have to say Curry. I had major trouble with statistics and math is my worst subject but he helped me to pass the class, he's really funny and his 1 on 1s are great."

— Guadalupe Martinez, Nursing



"Professor Long, he teaches really well and makes it easy to understand. He's funny and he went to Carroll like I did, it makes him relatable and I like that."

— Alyssa Ramirez, Surgical Tech

AUBREE CURRAN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CONTACT



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Corpus Christi, TX 78415

SKILLS

- Proficient communication/networking skills
- Familiar with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Familiar with Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Indesign, Premiere pro, etc)
- Consensus-Building and teamwork
- Works well under pressure

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a 19-year-old former editor-in-chief for Foghorn News at Del Mar College. Balancing academic rigor with professional responsibilities, I consistently delivered high performance on both ends. My passion for journalism and storytelling fueled my eagerness to contribute meaningfully to the world of news, and one I will continue as I transfer to the University of Tennessee for the Fall 2024 semester. As a highly driven individual with a proactive approach I am also ready to learn and absorb every aspect of this industry.

EXPERIENCE

December 2023 - May 2024

Editor-in-Chief

Foghorn Newspaper, Corpus Christi, TX

- In charge of the overall layout of the paper ensuring the process runs smoothly.
- Responsible for helping run the website, social media and print publication.
- Supervises a team of editors to ensure quality control standards are maintained.

September 2023 - December 2023

Managing Editor

Foghorn Newspaper, Corpus Christi, TX

- Manages staff of writers, editors, and other personnel to create high-quality content in a timely manner.
- Participates in brainstorming sessions with creative teams regarding new ideas for content development.
- Conducts interviews with relevant sources and establishes relationships with long term sources for future stories.
- Develops, pitches, and executes stories for the print publication and website.

June 2023 - December 2023

Contract Administrator

Southern Warranty Analytical Group, Corpus Christi, TX

- Liaison between construction/agriculture manufacturers and dealerships for parts returns and payments for warranty claims.
- Manages and oversees parts returns and composes a daily credit report through Excel spreadsheets.
- Monitors payments made under the terms of negotiated warranty claims.

EDUCATION

Expected graduation May 2024

Associate in Arts (A.A.) in Journalism Candidate GPA 4.0

Del Mar College , Corpus Christi, TX

May 2023

High School Diploma

London High School, Corpus Christi, TX

AWARDS

- Phi Theta Kappa member
- Fall/Spring 2022-2023 Honor's List
- National Honor's Society member
- Outstanding Student Award 2024
- President's List Spring 2024
- Photo Story Division 2 First Place (TIPA)
- General News Story Division 2 Second Place (TIPA)
- Sports Feature Photo Division 2 Second Place (TIPA)

REFERENCES

Sherry Butkay — **Southern Warranty Analytical Group**

CEO Of SWAG Employer

(830) 570-7326

sherrybutkay@southernwag.com

Robert Muilenburg — **Del Mar College**

Journalism Professor Professor/paper Advisor

(361) 249-6701

rmuilenburg@delmar.edu

COMMUNITY SERVICE

January 2022 - May 2023

Volunteer

Triumph Over Kid's Cancer (TOKC), Corpus Christi, TX

-Volunteered at local hospitals and participated in art projects with children

-Assisted in helping facilitate hospital blood drives

January 2022 - April 2023

Volunteer

Coastal Bend Food Bank, Corpus Christi, TX

- Helped organize donated food into designated areas
- Assisted with packaging food into boxes for families in need