

GRAD DEADLINE

Students have five days to turn in their applications by Oct. 4.

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THE LONG GAME

Professor Long sees first-hand results of his dedication to teaching at Del Mar.

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On Air Quality

Issues with maintenance and water leaks have led to concerns about safety

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Leaks and subsequent mold growth in rooms in the Fine Arts Center has for months gone untreated and led to the closure of areas meant to serve the students.

In addition, the heating and air conditioning system meant to prevent such problems is nearly four decades old. John Strybos, Del Mar College vice president of facilities, said plans are in the works to replace the unit but doesn't have a timeframe yet.

"We have \$2 million for deferred maintenance," Strybos said. "I already have meetings with consultants to develop the plans to address these issues."

In recent years, the college has continued to build new facilities around campus, but reporting by Foghorn News shows that continued maintenance to resolve the issues has been too costly. Foghorn News also found some issues in the reporting policy that does not account for information being passed back down to those making complaints. Occupants of the room impacted by the mold were the last to find out it was there.

"As far as our long-term plans for the building are concerned, I can tell you that safety for our students, faculty and staff is always our first concern," Del Mar President Mark Escamilla said in an email to the Foghorn News. "We are fortunate to have a seasoned vice president and chief physical facilities officer, John Strybos, leading this effort. John already has a recommended course of action and the budget to get started."

MOLD AND REPORTING ISSUES

Heat, humidity, and HVAC unit issues, as well as structural shifts have damaged several buildings on campus. The issue seems to be the worst in the Fine Arts building, where leaks have wreaked havoc for at least a decade, according to staff in the building.

Occupation of the building began in the summer of 1989, but the leak issues began after an addition was completed in 2012.

Reports indicate that anywhere the original building meets the newer additions, leaks occur. Moisture gets trapped between the walls and leads to mold growth. The leaks themselves have led to the inability to use some of these newer spaces in the addition.

Corpus Christi's humid climate already presents perfect conditions for growth of mold, so these maintenance issues only perpetuate its advancement.

Currently, the Digital Media Department has one room completely quarantined due to mold growth. A computer room also has half of the electrical outlets disengaged due to safety concerns regarding water reaching the outlets. The Art and Drama Department has had the Bartlett Theater shut down since September 2023 due to floor degradation from water leaks as well as mold growth. Signs and caution tape warn those who would enter to contact maintenance.

Several staff members declined to comment on this story. Others told Foghorn News that once they made a complaint, they are rarely contacted with discuss resolutions or to follow up on time frames.

And some faculty members in the impacted building were the last to know they'd been for months working in a suite with a mold contamination.

In January, Rachel Jennische, Radio and TV instructor, made a complaint after discovering a mold problem in room 163D of the Fine Arts Center, where she works.

"I kept hearing a weird sound," Jennische said. She soon found that the sound she was hearing was the wall falling apart due to a leak. "I reported it and that was the last I heard."

Jennische contacted Building Manager Roseanne Ramsey on Jan. 24. Ramsey immediately took videos of the leak on her phone and sent them, and a report via text to Janet Morris, associate director of maintenance, who contacted someone to bring buckets to collect excess water leaking from the wall.

That was the last Ramsey or Jennische heard on the issue.

In April, painters were contracted to repaint some of the rooms in the Fine Arts building. According to Jennische, someone came by and put up caution tape and warning signs saying "Do not enter." No one told her why. A month later, Jennische put in a request to have new computers hooked up in one of her rooms.

It wasn't until July 15 that IT staffers let her know they were warned not to enter the suite.

"They delivered the Macs and monitors, where do you want them set up? FA163 is not available, mold" an IT staffer who is no longer working at Del Mar told Jennische in a text message.

This is how Jennische found out that she had been working next to mold for the last seven months. Other faculty on campus expressed concern with the process.

"It feels to me they should have told the department chair," said Paul Bissel, professor

SEE **MOLD** ON PAGE 3

Long's heart true to Del Mar Family

EDWARD GREEN | PHOTO EDITOR
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Bob Long always believed in being a part of and contributing to his community. In 2022, the community had the opportunity to give back to him.

He was raised in the Del Mar area, "I grew up in this neighborhood right here by Del Mar, I went to Lexington Elementary in South Park," Long explained. After graduating from Carroll High School in 1988, he earned his Bachelor of Science from University of Texas at San Antonio and then a Master of Science in Biology, before family issues forced him to leave his doctoral program.

He then worked as a surgical technician and first assistant to an orthopedic surgeon after finishing the Surgical Technology program at Del Mar.

And for 26 years he has worked for Del Mar College as an anatomy and physiology professor, preparing students to enter medical fields. Anatomy and physiology is a prerequisite for multiple degree programs at Del Mar: nursing, radiology, respiratory therapy, emergency medical services, even kinesiology and dental hygiene. Chances are if a Del Mar student is going into a medical field, they've been advised, "Take Bob Long for anatomy!"

On July 7, 2022, Long had to apply his medical knowledge and experience to his own health. He had a burning sensation in his chest that wouldn't go away. "First time I ever felt it," he said. "Because I worked in medicine, I know that more people talk themselves out of an emergency room visit than they do talk themselves in. And I figured, I am going to call and just get checked."

When asked what might have caused the heart attack, Long said, "My mother is from an area in the world that has arteries that are coated with Teflon. My dad is the exact opposite, everything sticks to the arteries."

"I thought I pulled something in my chest from working out," Long explained. He has a healthy lifestyle. "On July 5, two days before the heart attack, I ran eight miles on the bay-front. At the time I was running eight miles a day, three times a week. On July 6, I went to the gym that night and did a full workout." Then on July 7, he gave a final for the summer semester, picked up his son from football practice and went home. "I ate lunch, sitting on the couch and I felt something hurt in my

chest."

Long called his wife asking her to take him to the hospital. "She called me back saying 'I'm 17 minutes from the house.'" Long said he wasn't going to wait. He called 911 and the dispatcher said there were medical emergency services already on the way. "I literally live four minutes from a fire department." He heard his garage door open. "I thought it was my wife. I turned; it was an EMT-paramedic and I asked, 'How did you get in my house.' The paramedic asked, 'Mr. Long?' He was a former student of mine named Sammy Mitchell."

Capt. Sammy Mitchell of the Corpus Christi Fire Department. "I had actually just finished [Long's] A&P II about a year before that happened." "Professor Long was very calm through the whole thing."

Long was calm throughout the ride to the hospital explained Mitchell. "That's probably because he has an understanding from a medical background."

When Long arrived at the hospital, the woman who helped wheel him in was also a former student of his. "Several of the emergency room staff were former students of mine," Long stated, "When I got sent to a room, the floor nurse, charge nurse, and two other nurses were former students of mine."

Long kept running into his former students. "All the nurses except for one or two that came in my room were former students of mine," he said. "I can't go anywhere in a hospital without encountering a former student, and it feels good, you feel like you made a difference in their life, and now they are able to make a difference in the lives of others."

"I like his teaching, the way he taught helped me understand more," said Mitchell. "I love his way of teaching, it clicked for me, and he made A&P II easier for me."

Long explained he's never been interested in teaching at a larger university. "There are a lot of smart and talented kids in this community that do not have the opportunity to go to a university."

"We are their first shot at that upper mobility both financially or education wise," he explained. "I have several former students that are MDs or PhDs now, they never imagined that they started here that they will end up there."

"That's why I want to be here, give back to the community that made me. I have no desire to go anywhere else."



COURTESY OF COLLEGE RELATIONS
Professor of Biology, Bob Long, stands with a classroom skeleton. He was the recipient of the Dr. Aileen Creighton Award for Teaching Excellence for 2024.

Student Success Center and CSEAT to host game jam

ANDREW CLEMENTS | ASSOC. EDITOR
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In collaboration with the Computer Science, Engineering, and Advanced Technology department, the Student Success Center will be hosting Sindri's Game Forge, a two-week-long game development competition for students.

Registration opens on Monday, Sept. 30, and the kick-off event will be held on Monday, Oct 7. The game jam is open to both individuals and teams of up to three participants, and offers a separate category for AI-assisted projects.

Competitors will have two weeks to develop an indie game using the Python programming language. The game will need to conform to three constraints revealed at the kick-off event. These constraints include a theme, a name that must be

used for a character or significant game element, and a set of colors that must be used in the game's design.

The games must be developed from scratch and the use of game engines is not permitted.

The development period will end on Oct. 21, and participants will need to submit their code and an accompanying report. The week following will be dedicated to code review and final preparations, concluding with the closing ceremony.

The masterminds behind Sindri's Game Forge are Student Success Center's Herminio Ibanez and the CSEAT Department's Dorothy Pallotti.

The idea was first devised over the summer by Ibanez while trying to think of ways to foster greater engagement among students.

"I thought about what would be a fun

way to engage computer science students and bring more attention to the classes and services we offer," said Ibanez. He was inspired by one of his own hobbies: video games. "I love video games, so any chance to put that into an activity, I'm all for that."

Ibanez approached Pallotti with the idea, who jumped on the proposal. "I really like doing different things. I like helping do events... When he brought me this, I said yes! Let's do this!"

Sticking with the Viking theme of Del Mar College, Ibanez and Pallotti named the game jam after Sindri, one of the two dwarfs from Norse mythology that forged Thor's hammer.

According to Ibanez and Pallotti, Sindri's Game Forge will be the first of its kind at Del Mar College.

"This will be fun, this will be something unique to us, and show off the Del



Mar College students' skills," Ibanez stated about the project.

For more information, contact Herminio Ibanez at hibanez@delmar.edu.

MOLD FROM PAGE 1

of sound recording technology. "How the hell did they find out before the people that were affected?" referring to the IT staffers who warned Jennische.

COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE

Here's how the chain of information is supposed to proceed: Anyone can make a complaint about air quality or mold sightings. Students, too, can inform faculty or staff, who are then supposed to inform the building manager. The building manager then reports the issue up the chain of command. In this case, Ramsey, the building manager, reported it up to Morris.

It's unclear if Del Mar has a policy to ensure that affected parties are aware of potential mold issues like this. None of the people interviewed for this story seemed to know of one.

The information never made it back to Jennische, who continued to work in the suite, assuming that if there were a problem, she would be contacted.

When being informed through IT, that there was mold in the room, Jennische contacted her department chair, who then contacted Strybos and Jack "Chris" Tweddle, director of environmental health and safety.

Tweddle confirmed he did not personally receive any complaints about the area until late July/August. Emails from former department chair Dale Anderson confirm that he was notified on July 17 by Jennische. After receiving the email, Strybos responded within five minutes telling him that it was already being worked on. Based on staffer's knowledge of the issue, and the tape and the buckets in that building, it appears those in charge of handling the problem were aware of a potentially hazardous condition, but not alerted to the issue.



A view of the mold growing inside of Room 163D. This photo was taken Sept. 9.

"When I found out, I took immediate action," Tweddle said.

Fixing the problems

In August, seven months after Jennische's initial complaint, a tape test was conducted on the growth in room 163D. A tape test is a process to examine the

amount of mold spores coming from a surface infestation. A piece of adhesive tape is pressed along the affected area, removed, and then examined under a microscope and counted to determine the number of spores being released as well as the type. Results range from "few" to "saturated." According to Tweddle, the test in room 163D determined that there were few spores on

the tape, which is considered safe.

In conjunction with the tape test, an air quality test was also conducted.

"The air sample came back within ranges, meaning it's not airborne," Tweddle said. "Based on that info, I opened the suite except for room 163D."

According to an email from Tweddle, the type of mold in the room was determined to be *Paecilomyces lilacinus*.

"It is a common fungus associated with tropical and subtropical soils," Tweddle wrote.

According to a 2006 study published on the National Health Institute website, the fungus *Paecilomyces lilacinus* can be considered an emerging pathogen responsible for cases of oculomycosis in humans, a type of fungal eye infection.

Fortunately, according to Tweddle, the spores had not fruited. The persistence of the leak kept the area damp, which prevents the spores from drying out and becoming airborne. The environment was determined to be safe, Tweddle said.

The World Health Organization, National Academy of Medicine, and National Toxicology Program all confirm that occupants of damp, moldy buildings have an increased chance of respiratory problems, such as shortness of breath and worsening asthma. The severity of these symptoms depends on the type of mold, amount and duration of exposure, and unique characteristics of individuals in contact.

Some faculty say the lack of communication about how these types of complaints are handled is the crux of the problem. Bissel says a better policy should be developed to ensure this never happens again because next time, the results may not come back favorably for Del Mar.

"I don't think anyone is trying to kill people," Bissel said. "But I don't think procedures were followed here. Balls get dropped a lot."

TORTILLA TUTORIAL

Spanish lab gave live demonstration on making tortillas from scratch. PAGE 3

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'SALEM'S LOT' REVIEW

Read "Salem's Lot" review, one of many of Stephen King's horror stories, by Bill Eaves.

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Local foundation inspiring hope



Raven is one of several dogs currently housed at Animal Care Services. Karen Cowan hopes to find fosters for adoptable dogs. With Animal Care Services constantly at capacity, the Faith and Hope Foundation is looking to help.

Local organization is looking for fosters to combat stray problem

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There were seven reported dog attacks on Del Mar College's Heritage Campus last year. The founder of the Faith and Hope Foundation, Karen Cowan, hopes to take some of the city's strays off of the streets and place them into good homes.

"We take dogs off the euthanasia list as well as strays," Cowan said. "As long as they have a foster, we vet them and socialize them and adopt them out to the Pacific Northwest and the East Coast."

When asked why those areas specifically, Cowan emphasized the recidivism rate amongst pet owners in Nueces County.

"It's like buying a dress," Cowan said. "They adopt a dog and three weeks later they go 'Oh I gotta move' and bring it back.

People will adopt a dog from animal control and they'll bring it to my rescue."

To combat this issue, Cowan ensures her foundation has a stringent vetting process, which includes following up with references, the adoptee's previous track record with dog handling, as well as the home and backyard conditions.

"We have a good vetting process when we adopt them out and we've had very few returns," Cowan said. "It's different in other states. They have a lack of dogs because of stricter spay and neuter laws."

Cowan hopes that more people in Nueces County will get involved to help combat the stray problem and encourages college students especially to volunteer.

"College kids are the best ones for foster. They take them out, they socialize them, they run on the beach. It's just needed," Cowan said.

She also emphasized that there is no cost to foster.

"We pay for everything, we give them vetting, kennel, toys, and food," Cowan said.

"They don't have to take one penny out of their pocket."

Even if you don't own your home, fostering is still a possibility.

"A lot of times, yes, we have a lot of people who are renters," Cowan said. "If it's not long-term, landlords don't care as much."

For those interested in volunteering, Cowan advises the interested to visit the website and Facebook page.

"Send us a message on Facebook (facebook/faithandhopefoundation), or go to our website <https://www.faithandhopefoundation.org>," Cowan said. "We would be happy to talk to them. It's a very short application. We also do cats and kittens too, for those cat lovers out there."

For those that don't want to foster, but still want to help, Cowan suggested coming to their yearly fundraiser.

"Our biggest fundraiser takes place in February," Cowan said. "We do a designer bag bingo. We set up tables at shows. We have volunteers that do just events to help fundraise."

HB 3297 gives car owners a break on inspections

17 counties will still need to undergo emissions testing for registration.

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Starting Jan. 1, 2025, Texas will no longer require non-commercial car owners to complete state vehicle inspections with the passage of House Bill 3297 signed by Gov. Greg Abbott. This should save time and money for drivers, although the \$7.50 fee previously charged during the inspection will now be charged when the vehicle is registered each year.

"Vehicle inspections are costly and time consuming and provide little benefit to public safety," said State Sen. Mayes Middleton.

This means that if the car's inspection has already expired this month or will

expire by December, drivers still need to get a state inspection done to renew the vehicle registration at the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to receive the blue sticker that will be placed on your windshield for another year.

"After two years of car inspections, I'm very glad they're going away. This new law will save time as well as just be easier on drivers. I think this will be for the better," said Del Mar College journalism major Emma Willingham.

Commercial vehicles will still undergo regular inspections, and drivers in 17 counties will still need to complete emissions testing to receive a registration. These counties include some of the state's most populous areas covering Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and Austin. The 17 counties are Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, William-

son and El Paso counties. Bexar County will be added to the list of counties requiring emissions tests in 2026.

"When I was told that car inspections were no longer required, I felt relieved because as a new car owner and college student it feels good knowing I have one less thing to worry about," digital media major Jasmine Vasquez said. "It's a huge weight off my shoulders."

Texas began its vehicle emissions testing program in January 1995. This program is part of the vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program, which was implemented to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirements.

Some of the perceived benefits of car inspections include extended car lifespan, spending less on fuel, fewer costly car repairs, driving with peace of mind, and a clean driving record for insurance purposes.

DMC offering free dental health services

Community members can receive free dental cleanings, x-rays and more

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Del Mar College's Dental Hygiene Clinic Services is offering free cleanings through mid-December to anyone who qualifies.

For more than 50 years, the dental program has given back to its community while also giving its students hands-on learning opportunities.

Starting Sept. 9, the dental program is providing free services to qualified applicants. The services include medical history review, blood pressure screening, intra-oral examination, dental preliminary assessment, periodontal assessment, education on oral dental hygiene, oral cancer screening, radiographs, fluoride treatments as needed, selective polishing, conservative periodontal therapy, dental hygiene therapy, and dental sealants.

"It's free of charge and it helps me succeed in my nursing abilities," nursing student Corie Velasquez said when learning about the program. Velasquez says he looks forward to taking advantage of the program and what it has to offer.

"They do have to go through a qualifying appointment and that one is roughly about an hour. Basically, all they do at that first appointment is identify the level of cleaning that the patient will need," said Dental & Imaging Administrative Assistant Amanda Canales. "After that, they could have up to three or four visits, and they run about three to four hours each visit."

The clinic is open during the spring and fall semesters and closed during summer semesters and holidays. During the fall semester hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.

Del Mar's dental program is located in the Health Science Building 1 (First Floor) Room 125 on the Windward Campus at 4101 Old Brownsville Road.

Prior to any dental procedure, an initial examination appointment is required to determine what is needed to be done and which student you would be assigned to. To schedule, call (361) 698-2854 or email dentalclinic@delmar.edu for further information.

Campus kitten finds a new home



PAUL FARIAS | FOGHORN NEWS

Network administration major Alena Zerr decided it was in both their best interests to take campus kitten Cricket home. After three known incidents involving cats being attacked on campus, Zerr felt Cricket needed a good home.

GUEST COLUMN

Professor emeritus Norman Delaney looks back on DMC's world-class faculty

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'GOOSEBUMPS'

Harbor Playhouse debuts the family-friendly production in Corpus Christi

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City's strays are campus problem

Del Mar requested more help from Animal Care Services of Corpus Christi

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Del Mar College has logged seven reported dog attacks so far in 2024.

Four dog attacks were reported directly to the DMC Police while the other three were reported to Corpus Christi Animal Care Services. Of the four attacks reported to campus police, three injuries were reported including one DMC student, one Collegiate High School student and one community member on campus looking to file his taxes on campus. The fourth attack was on a DMC staff member, but the dogs snagged the staff's pant leg with no injury.

Even though there hasn't been an attack since February, Del Mar Police Chief Lauren White warns students not to approach any strays on campus.

Most of the attacks occurred near the Venters Business Building, the other near Collegiate outside the gym. According to Chief White, no one should approach a stray dog should they encounter one on campus, even if the dog appears friendly. However, should a dog corner you and appear aggressive, White states you should call security immediately at 361-698-1946.

"Don't run away, back away slowly so it doesn't incite their prey drive," White said. "Do not turn your back on them. Get the attention of others and call for security to come over."

If you happen to get bit, White advises to seek medical attention immediately.

"Seek immediate medical attention regardless of how severe it is because it needs to be cleaned out properly, especially since if the dog is not where we can catch it, then animal control will need to be advised so they can attempt to locate the dog for rabies," White said. "They haven't had a case of rabies in Nueces County for quite a while, but still it is something that is unknown and has to be considered," she added.

Director of Environmental, Health, and Safety Jack Tweddle asks students not to feed any strays either. "People leave feed for the cats, but it brings the dogs," Tweddle said.

Because of the rash of atypical attacks last school year, Tweddle and White asked for more help from Animal Care Services of Corpus Christi.

"Before that one little group in February,



EDWARD GREEN | FOGHORN NEWS

there was only one before that in May of 2023, and before that it had been years," White said. "There hadn't been [attacks] on campus since I came in 2015."

Animal Care Services responded by canvassing the area in late February, picking up approximately 20-25 loose dogs in the Del Mar area and close neighborhoods.

"We have increased patrol from Animal Care Services, over that week they probably trapped 10 strays" Tweddle said. "Some were neighborhood animals that had to be returned."

Tweddle and White added that dogs are not the only danger running around campuses, as the left-out food attracts rodents, raccoons, possums, and bugs. Javelinas have even been spotted at Windward Campus.

"Do not approach," Tweddle said. "Do not feed them."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ABOVE: Stray dogs found near the Garcia Building on Del Mar College Heritage Campus

LEFT: Del Mar student Bella Recendez was bitten on the leg by a stray dog on campus last year.

Taking a look inside: White Library takes shape

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The Del Mar College White Library is edging closer to completion as crews work to finish in time for its tentative opening in Spring 2025. Cody Gregg, Dean of Learning Resources, has headed up the reconstruction of the White Library, and gave a tour to show off the progress made since construction began in early 2022. Most of the construction is finished, and workers are putting together furniture and laying out each room according to posted floor plans.

Each floor has had an overhaul. The fifth floor has been redesigned to provide a 360-degree panoramic view of the city. Those with vertigo might want to give it a pass.

The fourth floor is home to one of the more interesting additions, with sound-proofed recording rooms capable of recording with just the touch of a button. Gregg hopes the rooms will give the opportunity for teachers to record lessons, as well as student opportunities to record themselves for assignments in a quiet, private setting. The new Maker's Space with 3D printers, laser cutter, serger and other equipment will open approximately six months after the library's grand opening.

The study rooms will undergo a change as well, as group study rooms will no longer be first-come, first-serve, and will now utilize an online reservation system.

"The problem was that individual students were taking up group study rooms," Gregg said.

To help ensure every student feels comfortable, the furniture throughout the building has changed as well. The desks are gone, and in their place are privacy nooks scattered throughout the

building. Gregg hopes that this will mitigate the study room issue and give the students a better sense of privacy. Most of the furniture throughout the library now has charging ports for your devices. Even the children's section is getting new furniture.

"Choosing the furniture to fit the needs of the students and the space," Gregg said. "I think those individual study pods are an example of that. It's a space where a student can go and be alone and get the quiet that they need."

Many Del Mar services are being consolidated to the library, including the testing center, which will now be on the third floor of the library as opposed to across the street from Heritage Campus. The new testing center is a labyrinth of rooms and corridors, but the area has built in kiosks where workers will be able to assist students during operating hours, and combination lockers for students to securely store their property while taking an exam.

"We tried to bring in other student services into the library," Gregg said. "It's really about consolidating services so it's more convenient for students, so they don't have to do the ping ponging around campus."

Those looking for the art that used to be on the fifth floor will now find it on the second, inside of an updated gallery setting with modern arthouse lighting. Gregg hopes the move will encourage people to check out the gallery.

"That was the idea of moving it onto the second floor," Gregg said. "So, it would be accessible, people would see it, and they would want to go there."

The White Library should open at the beginning of the Spring 2025 semester, with a grand opening to be announced at a later date.



EDWARD GREEN | FOGHORN NEWS

TOP: White Library at Del Mar's Heritage Campus has been under renovation since 2022. **BOTTOM:** Workers unpack boxes of furniture and other materials to complete the library renovations.

NEW POLICE ACADEMY

Read about CCPD's Police Academy at
Oso Creek Campus

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MOVIE REVIEW

Read Foghorn staff reviews on 'Alien:
Romulus' and 'Inside Out 2'

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Nueces County sees increase in STDs

The Women's and Men's Health Clinic offers free and low-cost services

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With the new school year underway, new waves of young men and women have hit the Del Mar College walkways, eager to enjoy the college experience. Unfortunately for some, part of that experience is a painful one: sexually transmitted infections.

Employees of the Women's and Men's Health Services of the Coastal Bend have been setting up a kiosk in the Harvin Center with informational pamphlets, condoms, and more, hoping to educate students regarding sexual health, and stop the spread of STIs.

Christina Bonner, Chief Operating Officer of WAMHS, encourages students to utilize the services offered by the clinics.

"Most of the time people qualify for all services we offer," said Bonner. "Pregnancy tests, annual STI screenings, the full range of services."

WAMHS provides male and female birth control, as well as STI and pregnancy testing, the cost of which is based on a sliding scale determined by the applicant's income.

"Generally they're free," Bonner said. "Typically if someone has to pay, it's \$20 to \$25 or less."

"Very affordable," she added.

If a student should find themselves suffering from symptoms of an STI, or simply fear they may have one after an unprotected encounter, Bonner recommends they head into the clinic immediately, and refrain from all sexual contact until they've been tested, receive the results, and undergo treatment if there is an infection.

"Come get tested and abstain from intercourse until you get results," Bonner stresses. "It's very quick, we'll get you results in a couple days."

WAMHS offers partner treatment as well.

"We do partner treatment," Bonner stated.

"If they do test positive we can send partner treatment home with them."

Bonner stated the clinic has seen an increase in cases, and the rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia are rising per 100,000 people. Nueces County ranks 10th highest in the state for both diseases and third highest for congenital syphilis, which is when a mother passes the infection to her baby during childbirth, something that is completely

preventable with proper testing, treatment, and doctor visits.

"Come in and get tested," Bonner said. "We can refer them wherever they need to go and confirm pregnancy or whatever they need us to."

WAMHS stresses that practicing safe sex and getting tested and treated as soon as possible is key to reducing the rate. They also provide a wide range of services outside of the STI realm like annual exams, pap smears, birth control, and yeast infection treatment.

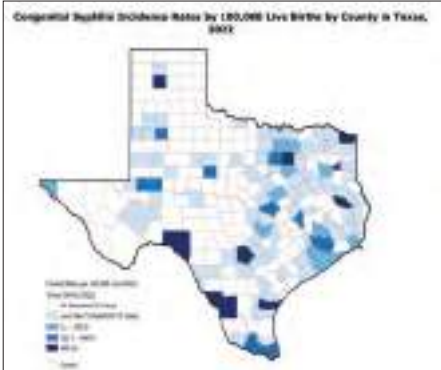
"No one knows what you're here for and it's always 100% confidential," Bonner emphasized.

The Women's and Men's Health Services

of the Coastal Bend has two locations in Corpus Christi: 4410 Dillon Lane, Suite 1; and 3536 Holly Road. The Dillon Loan clinic can be reached at 361-857-0101 and the Holly Road clinic at 361-855-9107. They also have a mobile health unit that goes to more rural areas of South Texas. Follow their Instagram @wamhs_ and website www.wamhs.org for the schedule.

Read our full Q&A with Women's and Men's Health Services of Coastal Bend on page 3

RICKY SYRRE | FOGHORN NEWS



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH |

Lights out at lighthouse

Del Mar continues beautification efforts

BILL EAVES | REPORTER
beaves@foghornnews.com

On June 7 the Del Mar Lighthouse was demolished by Camacho Demolition, after having been donated by the late Dusty Durrill in 2007.

Dusty Durrill started a foundation in the name of his daughter Devary, who was killed in October 1978 when her Ford Mustang II burst into flames when rear-ended. Durrill filed a lawsuit against Ford, won, and started a trust in his daughter's name with the settlement. It was through the Devary Durrill Foundation that he donated many of the sculptures and artwork that Corpus Christi is known for, including the Mirador de la Flor and Selena statue on the bayfront, the Fallen Heroes Memorial in front of the Nueces County Courthouse, and the Wind Dancer sculpture in Cole Park.

Dusty's only son Bill Durrill is now the head of the foundation and continues to carry on the legacy of his father and sister through his work with the trust.

"It was a love project for my father," Bill Durrill said, speaking about the lighthouse. "We were proud of it."

Matthew Busby, Vice President of Development and Donor Advising and Jeff Olsen, Vice President of Communications and Marketing, discussed the Center for Economic Development's pursuit of their goal of the continued beautification of every Del Mar campus.

"It had degraded over the years," Busby said. "It had become a safety concern, and because of engineering couldn't be moved."

It was demolished in conjunction with the Memorial Classroom Building in June. Busby made sure to give Bill Durrill a call



LOLA PONCE | FOGHORN NEWS

Workers with Camacho Demolition deconstruct the Del Mar lighthouse over the summer break. The lighthouse stood on the corner of Baldwin Boulevard and Ayers Street for 17 years, from 2007 to 2024.

before it was taken down.

"I maintain relationships, connections, and contacts with the Durrills," Busby said. "The Durrill family believe in the beautification of the city."

Moving forward, the Center for Economic Development hopes to replace the Lighthouse with a new art piece, which at this moment is planned to be a nine-foot tall, 3D version of the DMC logo that adorns many business cards, brochures, and buildings across every Del Mar campus.

"Something where students can go and take pictures, something very Instagram-friendly," Olsen said. "We're in talks with the architect who helped draw up [General Academic and Music Building], and we'll get some estimates on getting it built."

Regarding the fallen lighthouse, Bill Durrill says he understands the college's decision to move away from the lighthouse.

"Things change, people have different plans, and I don't hold a grudge. We were proud of it and understand that Del Mar is growing."



FILE PHOTO | FOGHORN NEWS

Dusty, right, and Sam Durrill, with their granddaughters McKinna and Riley Gourley, illuminate the Del Mar lighthouse in October 2007.

Professor Bryan Stone nominated for ACCT Award

LOLA PONCE | REPORTER
lponce@foghornnews.com

Professor of History, Bryan Edward Stone, a distinguished faculty member at Del Mar College has been nominated for the 2024 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) of its annual Regional Awards. The DMC Board of Regents initiated the nomination, with Board Chair Carol Scott playing a key role in Stone's nomination.

"We celebrate his work and the representation of Del Mar's many worthy faculty with this recognition," said Scott.

Stone's achievement is a testament to his remarkable career in academia and dedication to education. He has been recognized with several notable awards throughout his career. In 2019, Stone received the Aileen Creighton Award, named after the late Dr. Aileen Creighton, for Teaching Excellence from DMC, an honor nominated and awarded by his peers. The following year Stone was named East (Heritage) Campus Teacher of the Year, an award selected by students. This year, he was honored as a Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, an award given annually to ten outstanding professors in Texas.



Bryan Stone, has also recently won the Piper Professor award

SEE STONE PAGE 3

Fast, free STD testing and treatment

Clinic offers confidential STD testing with financial assistance available

The Women's and Men's Health Clinic of the Coastal Bend is a nonprofit that sees 17,000 unduplicated patients a year. Patients can qualify for financial assistance at the time of their visit. Appointments can be scheduled online but same-day appointments are available and walk-ins are accepted. WAMHS's Chief Operating Officer Christina Bonner provides answers to common questions below.

How often should protection be used?
Every time.

What types of protection are out there?
Male condom, female condom.

What should a student do if they fear they have an STD?
Come get tested and abstain from intercourse until you get results.

What should a student do if they are diagnosed with an STD?
Most STDs are easily treatable with the right medications. We offer treatment for you and your partner in all four clinics if you do test positive.

How often should someone get tested for STDs?
Every three months or if you are experiencing symptoms

What should someone do if they are diagnosed with an STD and they are in a relationship?
Communication is key. We offer partner treatment also. It is important to treat both people and for them to abstain from intercourse for the recommended period of time.

How should someone go about telling their partner they have an STD?

STIs are not uncommon and are nothing to be ashamed of. They are treatable with medications that are available at all four of our clinic locations. Honesty is the best policy.

What should a student do if they fear they are pregnant?
Come get tested and go from there. If you are not seeking pregnancy and have a negative test, we can start you on a birth control method that you and your provider feels fits your needs.

How much does an STD test cost?
Most of the time its free, but if you do not qualify for free services, most people pay \$25 or less

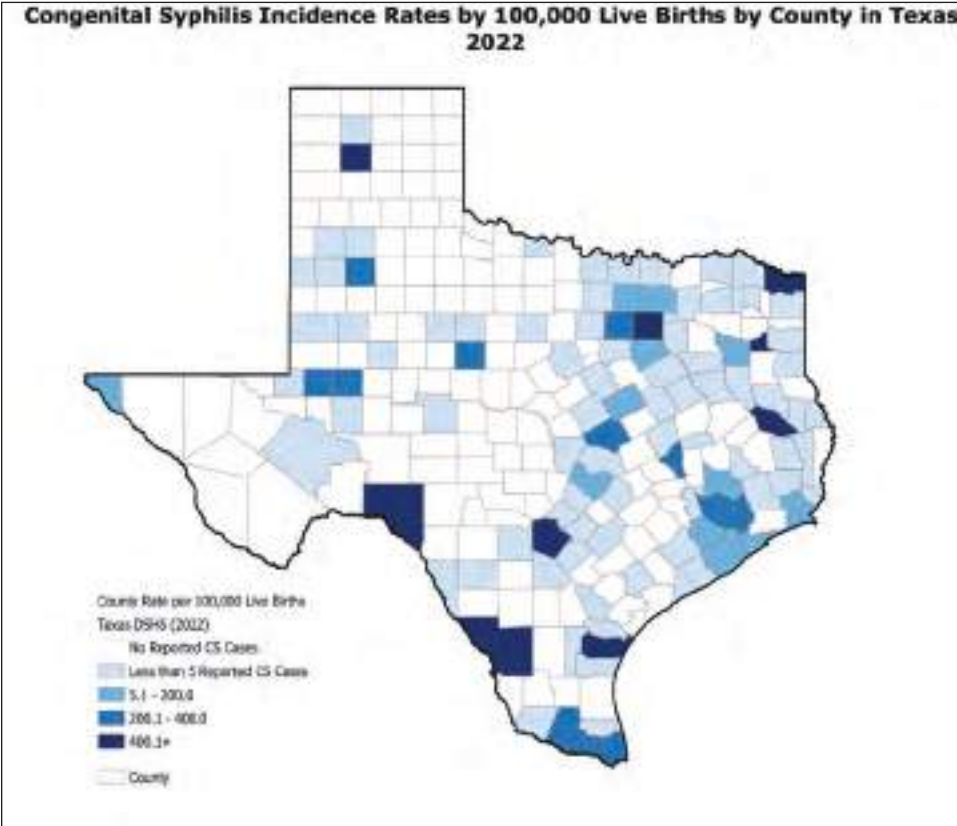
How much does a pregnancy test cost?
Free if you qualify for free or discounted services and most do. If you do not the test is \$8 and the visit fee is \$20.

How much does treatment cost?
Free if you qualify for free services or discounted services. If you do not qualify treatment is \$6.

Is treatment provided for someone's partner if they have an STD?
Yes. We will send you home with partner treatment when you come in to be treated when possible.

Are there clinics outside of Corpus Christi?
We have a mobile health unit that goes to more rural areas of South Texas. Watch our Instagram and website for the schedule.

What types of protections are available for students who may be worried about coming in for testing?
Services are always confidential. We also provide a wide range of services like annual exams, pap smears, birth control, yeast infection treatment, etc. No one knows what you're here for and its always 100% confidential. We are also open until 7 p.m. on



Tuesday and Thursdays.

Where can students obtain information about your clinic?
At our website at www.wamhs.org.

What do you wish you would have known about sexual health as a freshman in college?
Always keep condoms and emergency contraceptives on hand. Emergency contraceptive is always available at our clinics and is free if you qualify or \$10 if you don't. Emergency contraceptives are something you should keep in your medicine cabinet in case you or a partner ever need them. Free condoms are always available too.

What STDs are most common in Corpus? Are they treatable? Are they chronic?
Gonorrhea and chlamydia, and yes they are treatable. I would not describe them as chronic, but the rate per 100,000 people is climbing. Practicing safe sex and getting tested and treated as soon as possible is key to reducing the rate. If you are curious about our rates check out the DSHS STD Surveillance Report for county specific info.

Are you finding any difficulty in treating STIs (antibiotic-resistant strains)?
No we have not.
--Bill Eaves | Foghorn Reporter

STONE FROM PAGE 1

"I would have never expected such recognition, and it's an astonishing honor to receive so many prestigious awards," Stone said. "These awards are not just a reflection of my efforts but also of DMC and the incredible faculty here, of which I am only one member."

Stone, who began his tenure at DMC in 2004, has spent a total of 20 years in academia. Before joining Del Mar, he taught at Dawson Community College in Montana and was a graduate student in Austin. His academic journey, which began with a focus on English and literature, shifted toward American history after working in a state government and exploring his family's historical roots.

Currently, Stone is preparing for the fall semester, serving on faculty committees and addressing new challenges such as the impact of artificial intelligence on education. He is also finalizing a book set for publication in October, which he describes as a major priority alongside his ongoing research.

"Along with my work at Del Mar, which is always my first priority, I imagine that research will occupy me in 2025," Stone noted.

Dr. Stone's dedication to teaching and research continues to inspire both his students and colleagues, affirming his place as a prominent figure in the field of education.

Viking Quest Day helps students find majors

DMC teachers, advisors, and faculty assist students to discover their careers

PAUL FARIAS | REPORTER
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The Student Success Center and Career Development hosted Viking Quest Day on Aug. 28, a series of seminars and luncheons where new students met with faculty in the Venters Business Building. The event was designed to assist students with deciding on a major.

"It's targeted to students who are coming to college and undeclared with their major," Student Success Center director Omar Villarreal said.

While the day was pitched for students with an undeclared major, they were not the only target audience.

"Maybe they signed up for a major and they're not sure that they want to remain in that major," Villarreal explained.

Part of Viking Quest involved students speaking with advisors.

"We have academic advisors from certain degree programs and career pathways come over and provide sessions," Career De-

velopment director Jennifer Gonzalez said.

Not only were the students invited to meet with advisors, but they were also informed on how to use campus resources.

"We had sessions from our career counselors from the Career Development department on Handshake, which is a career job portal for Del Mar College students and alumni," Gonzalez said.

Viking Quest also provided information on Del Mar College's programs.

"We also have sessions on overviews of skills and trades, and also on transferrable programs," Gonzalez said.

If students had any questions after the sessions, they had an opportunity to ask the advisors directly.

"We had a lunch panel with all the advisors to answer questions from students on the different challenges that they may have in school," Gonzales said.

"Anything from study skills, time management, registering classes, career exploration, and career readiness."

Villarreal noticed another aspect of college life that students may be apprehensive about: being ready in a major.

"The truth is that there's a lot of students who sign up for college and do everything they're supposed to except be certain about

what it is they want to major in," Villarreal said.

For those who are unsure, Viking Quest was organized to assist them through the process.

"Hopefully the majority of our students who are not sure what it is they want to major in can come and get informed," Villarreal said.

If a student could not make it to Viking Quest but was still unsure, Gonzalez advised to still see a counselor.

"We are open to prospective students," Gonzalez said.

"We are very knowledgeable of the wonderful programs that Del Mar College has. At Del Mar College, there is something for everyone."

Villarreal also advised for new students to experience college regardless of their confidence in a major.

"What I don't want is for students' indecision to stop them from enrolling into college," Villarreal said.

"Take a semester, experience your program, think about what it is you want to major in. Then meet with Career Development, meet with the Student Success Center, meet with your advisors and ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask questions."



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WILLIAM EAVES

JOURNALIST

CONTACT

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- ✉ billeavesprofessional@gmail.com
- 🏠 Corpus Christi, TX

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi

Completing bachelor's degree
in 2027

SKILLS

- Digital content creation
- AP Style writing
- SEO best practices
- Social media management (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Content Management Systems (CMS)
- Photo and video editing
- Crisis management
- Team collaboration

PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Versatile journalist and content producer with a robust background in military security and a passion for storytelling. Proven ability to craft compelling narratives across digital platforms, emphasizing accuracy, clarity, and audience engagement. Adept at managing high-pressure situations, meeting tight deadlines, and collaborating with cross-functional teams to deliver impactful content.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

KIII-TV – *DIGITAL CONTENT PRODUCER*

Corpus Christi, TX | May 2025 – present

- Sourcing, researching and writing original and accurate breaking news content
- Curating and scheduling news content for website, mobile app, social media and streaming
- Writing and editing for grammar, clarity and structure while adhering to current AP Style

FOGHORN NEWS (DEL MAR COLLEGE) – *NEWS EDITOR/JOURNALIST*

Corpus Christi, TX | Aug 2024 – Jan 2025

- Reviewed and edited news articles for accuracy, clarity, and style
- Coordinated with reporters and writers to ensure timely news coverage
- Fact checked and verified sources to maintain journalistic integrity
- Planned and oversaw coverage of breaking news and special reports
- Mentored junior editorial staff and provide constructive feedback
- Participated in editorial meetings and contribute to content strategy
- Ensured compliance with editorial guidelines and ethical standards

INGLESIDE INDEX – *FREELANCE REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER*

Ingleside, TX | May 2013 – Sept 2013

- Wrote and distributed accurate breaking news content
- Covered City Council meetings and wrote coverage of city issues

CERTIFICATIONS & AWARDS

- ACP Pacemaker Best in Show 2024 – 1st place for Best Reporting
- Antiterrorism Officer Level II
- DOD Top Secret/Yankee White Clearance
- Navy Achievement Medal (4x)
- Joint Service Achievement Medal (3x)
- AMCOM ATO Award
- Humanitarian Award (Hurricane Katrina)

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE CONT.

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES – *SPORTS INTERN*
Corpus Christi, TX | Sept 2013 – Feb 2014

- Participated in editorial meetings and contributed to content strategy
- Wrote and distributed accurate breaking news content as assigned

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ALLIED UNIVERSAL – *ELITE SECURITY OFFICER*
Corpus Christi, TX | June 2023 – May 2025

- Conducted regular patrols and monitored high-risk areas to ensure safety and prevent incidents
- Liaised between management and emergency responders during critical situations
- Documented hourly reports detailing activities and observations

U.S. ARMY – *ANTI-TERRORISM FORCE PROTECTION OFFICER*
Corpus Christi, TX | Feb 2011 – Dec 2012

- Developed and implemented security protocols for the Corpus Christi Army Depot
- Coordinated with cybersecurity and operational security divisions to ensure compliance with AR 525-13
- Conducted training sessions to prepare personnel for emergency scenarios, including active shooter situations

U.S. NAVY – *MASTER AT ARMS (MILITARY POLICE)*
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba/Colt’s Neck, New Jersey | March 2005 – March 2010

- Provided security for naval assets, including aircraft and strategic cargo
- Conducted law enforcement and force protection duties, ensuring the safety of personnel and property
- Trained personnel in physical security measures and emergency response protocols