

ISLAND WAVES



UNCENSORED SINCE 1993



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The Kramer family and their dog Waffles sit out to celebrate the holiday.



Lillian Crane | Photographer



Cheers to New Beginnings!

Hexie Dimmett | Copy Editor

Island Waves is moving due to the demolition of Classroom East. The demolition of the building will occur in early August, according to Associate Vice President for Operations, Scott Meares.

Classroom East is one of the oldest buildings on campus, with its construction beginning only 10 years after the transition of Ward Island from a military base to a place of higher education.

In 1957, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) was issued \$309,000 in bonds in order to begin construction on multiple projects, among which was W.A. Miller Hall, now known as Classroom East.

The building was originally constructed as a men's dormitory, but in more recent years, Classroom East has housed athletic teams and offices, and has played host to our newsroom for Island Waves.

This drastic change comes in the midst of other changes, one example being the renaming of Momentum Village. TAMU-CC is in the middle of large developments and changes, marking the university's dedication to marching into the bright future.

You can find Island Waves in the Bay Hall for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester.



Classroom East surrounded by trees, still having a "Go Golf" sign in the window.

Lillian Crane | Photographer

Classroom East sits and a small intersection as the sun sets behind the building.

Lillian Crane | Photographer

CLASSROOM EAST



Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Chloe Tilley | Interim Editor-in-Chief

July is the month dedicated to raising awareness of the mental health of minority communities. The awareness month was first started by activist Bebe Moore Campbell, who advocated for mental health education and eliminating stigma among diverse communities until her death in 2006.

Fellow friend and activist Linda Wharton-Boyd was inspired by Campbell's fight to end the stigma around minority mental health and advocated for a whole month to be dedicated to the movement. In 2008, July was designated as Minority Mental Health Awareness Month by the United States House of Representatives.

For over a decade, July has been a time to raise awareness about the unique mental health struggles faced by minority communities. It's a chance to draw attention to how crucial it is to treat and support people with mental health issues that disproportionately affect minorities.

Throughout July, people can recognize mental health issues found in minority communities are often overlooked or stigmatized. Many individuals in these communities face obstacles to accessing mental healthcare and may experience disparities in diagnosis, treatment, and support. Advocates of mental health can work toward breaking down these barriers and creating inclusive mental healthcare by encouraging awareness and education on minority mental health.

Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) students of color touched on how mental health is treated in their respective communities.

"I feel like in the Black community, mental health is seen as a 'white person' thing, if that makes sense," said Dakota Rusher, a junior Art major and member of the Black Student Union. "Almost as if it's natural for Black people to internalize every little thing. On top of that, I feel like a lot of Black people see things like depression or anxiety, things I struggle with personally, as something to be 'prayed away.'"

Minority communities in the United States tend to be more religious and hold the notion that mental illness can be prayed away. Religion in Black American communities has roots in slavery when religion was the only sanctuary while working inhumane conditions on fields and plantations.

Black slaves found solace in prayer and many Black people hold the same belief today. While religion does provide comfort, people must also take secular action and seek treatment for their mental illness or illnesses.

For the Black American community as well as other American communities of color, mental illness is often a result of generational trauma rooted in slavery and the colonial era.

"I believe that for the Black community specifically, understanding and accepting that a lot of what we do is rooted in generational trauma and the way a lot of older Black folk raise or treat their children is deeply, deeply rooted in slavery," Rusher said.

Ali Ytuarte, a junior and criminal justice major at TAMU-CC, provided insight into how mental health is treated within the Mexican American community.

"Mental health in the Mexican community is

usually ignored for a couple of reasons; It's seen as a sign of weakness and something that needs to be handled quietly," Ytuarte said. "It's also very hard to come by help that can relate to our triumphs and our struggles."

The Mexican and Mexican American communities are known for a concept called "machismo," in which men are expected to be strong, emotionless, and masculine. Mexican American men feel the

"In the Chicano community, as well as other Latine communities, women are not exempt from gender expectations."

need to be dominant and hyper-masculine, as it is not something that is accepted, but something that is expected of Chicano men.

In the Chicano community, as well as other

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

Photo courtesy of Transformations Care Network.

Latine communities, women are not exempt from gender expectations. They are often expected to adhere to “marianismo,” the female counterpart of machismo. Marianismo is a behavior pattern in which the traditional Chicana or Latina perceives herself as morally and spiritually superior, as she must act virgin-like.

Mental and physical health coincide and often impact each other, so it is essential to discuss the physical health of minorities as well.

Aniya Mosley, a sophomore double major in Psychology and Theater at TAMU-CC discusses how she takes care of herself physically as a Black woman.

“Physical health is treated strongly in my community. Though, going to the hospital or doctor is dangerous for us for many reasons. Some being the expenses and medical racism,” Mosley said.

Health for minority communities, especially the Black community, is doubly stigmatized because while mental health is seen as a weakness, people of color also face medical racism in that doctors held the belief that Black people did not feel pain the same way white people do. Fortunately, fewer doctors hold this belief in the present.

During Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, self-care should be an essential part of a BIPOC person’s routine. Self-care is important for BIPOC because of mental health and well-being, empowerment, self-expression, healing from racial and generational trauma, advocacy, and resistance.

“For me, self-care is really important because it’s necessary as a Black person,” Mosley said. “Going online and seeing people constantly argue about my rights as a person or a new video of a Black person being abused by local law enforcement takes a toll on my community. Taking time to get off the internet and spend time with people I love is my self-care.”

“I always try to remember how special my culture is and immerse myself in it more often,” Yuarte said. “I make the foods my mother made [for] me as a kid. I listen to the music that is played every time our extended family comes over for celebrations. I surround myself with others who have the same experiences, and we build each other up.”

“To me, self-care is doing whatever it is you need to do to make yourself feel better. It can be as small as taking a nap or as big as cutting off that toxic person in your life,” Rusher said. “I still struggle with self-care,

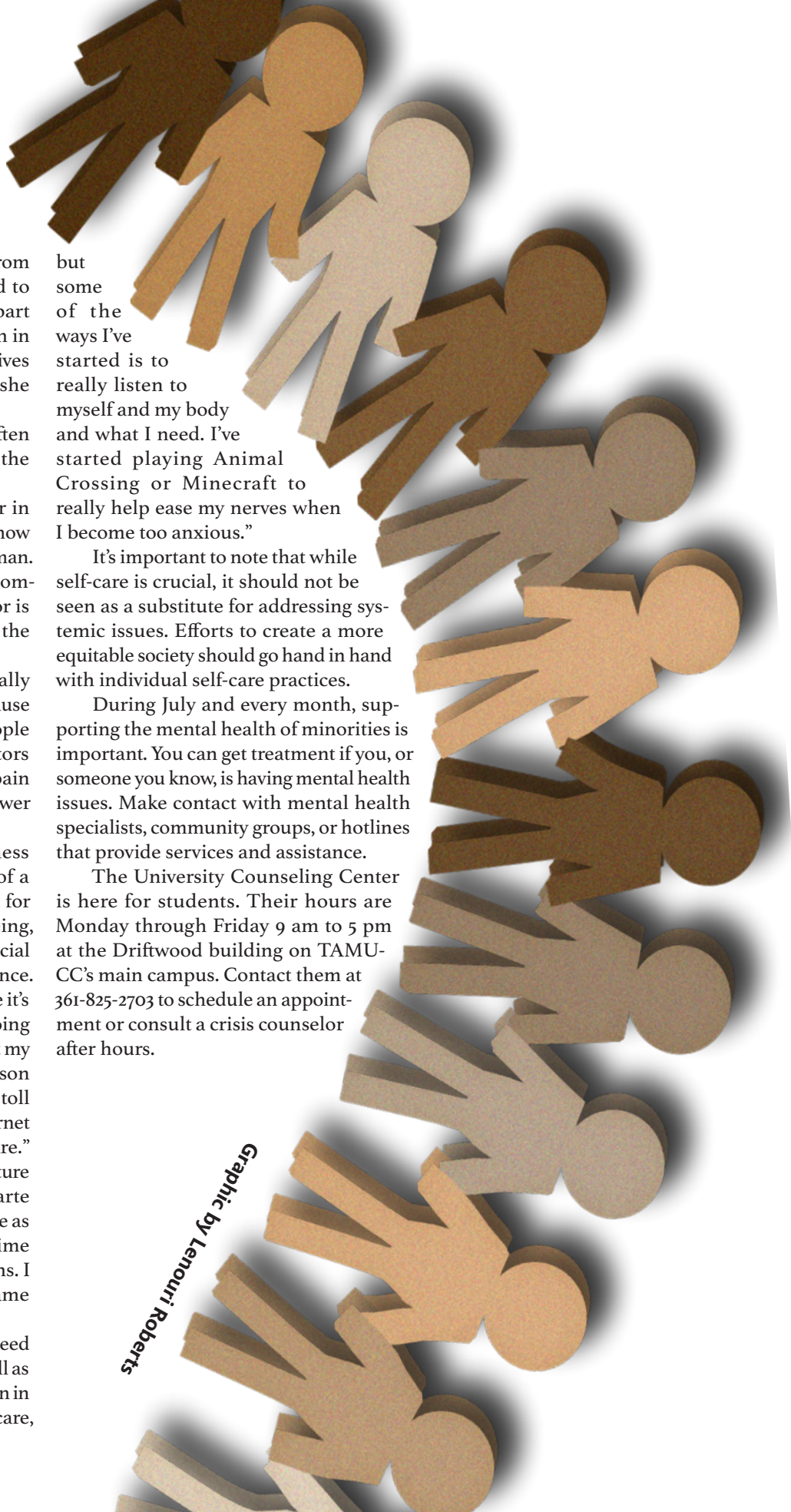
but some of the ways I’ve started is to really listen to myself and my body and what I need. I’ve started playing Animal Crossing or Minecraft to really help ease my nerves when I become too anxious.”

It’s important to note that while self-care is crucial, it should not be seen as a substitute for addressing systemic issues. Efforts to create a more equitable society should go hand in hand with individual self-care practices.

During July and every month, supporting the mental health of minorities is important. You can get treatment if you, or someone you know, is having mental health issues. Make contact with mental health specialists, community groups, or hotlines that provide services and assistance.

The University Counseling Center is here for students. Their hours are Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm at the Driftwood building on TAMU-CC’s main campus. Contact them at 361-825-2703 to schedule an appointment or consult a crisis counselor after hours.

Graphic by Lenouri Roberts



Celebrating and Recognizing Disability Pride Month

Chloe Tilley | Interim Editor-in-Chief

Disability Pride Month celebrates disabled people embracing their disabilities as an integral part of their identities, reclaiming visibility, interacting with their disabilities openly, and rejecting internalized ableism and shame.

Disability is a part of the wide array of human diversity and is something that nearly all people will experience at some point in their lives. It's also a significant identity that defines how people experience the world. However, people with disabilities have been marginalized and misunderstood for centuries. All disabilities and their intersecting identities should be acknowledged, appreciated, and respected.

July is a time for the disability community to unite, uplift, and amplify one another's voices. Disability Pride Month began as a day of celebration in July 1990 when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law by former president George H.W. Bush. In 1990, Boston held its first Disability Pride Day celebration. In July 2015, the first official celebration of Disability Pride Month occurred, which also was the 25th anniversary of the ADA being signed into law. Since then, cities nationwide in the United States have celebrated disability pride month with numerous festivities, including parades.

While July has been set as the month to give visibility to those with disabilities, barriers still exist for marginalized people. This is why we need to honor every disability, the people who have them, and the wide range of support they need to thrive.

Like for all marginalized identities, those without disabilities can provide essential allyship to disabled individuals who need it.

Chlöe Leal, president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC), explains why allyship is important: "I don't personally have any disabilities, but I do have many family members and friends who do. If I ever advocate for them, I always bear in mind that being a good ally is allowing them the platform to speak instead of speaking in their place without their consent. I'll always fight for people's right to speak their truth about their experiences and do what I can to help them in the best way possible."

Disabilities aren't always physically visible. Some disabilities, such as anxiety or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, are invisible. There are also

physical disabilities that can be hidden, such as beta-thalassemia, which is a blood disorder.

Jazmeyne Evans, a senior student at TAMU-CC majoring in healthcare administration, speaks about how their disability has affected their life: "I ran track throughout middle school and high school. I was always belittled by my coaches for faking being tired to get out of practice. Turns out, all of my fainting spells were because of my blood disorder. Even after my diagnosis, no one took it seriously. Coming to TAMU-CC, there's been a lot of kind people I met that have treated me with respect and listened to my needs. It wasn't until this year actually that I felt comfortable enough to say I'm disabled."

"There's a very strict criteria that society has for what a disabled person looks like and that doesn't reflect our world at all. A lot more people have disabilities than they may realize, and they're missing out on resources and the community they may need," Evans said.

Students at TAMU-CC are still fighting for accessibility and to overcome the challenges faced by them. This is partly a consequence of living in a world that caters to able-bodied people, but there is work being done to cater to physically and mentally disabled students, faculty, and staff at TAMU-CC.

"If we truly want to encourage equity and inclusion on campus, we have to ask first what our own biases surrounding disabilities do to affect the culture of our school and the students who attend it. To eliminate stigma, we have to first address [that] it exists in the first place. That's the best thing we can do to begin to support the disabled community here on campus," Leal said.

TAMU-CC has organizations such as the Islanders for Disability Rights, Islanders for Social Justice, and Islander Feminists that advocate for the rights of disabled individuals.

"I would love to see the Islanders for Disability Rights continue to advocate for more Disability

Awareness Month programming in the coming academic year. I also think the Disability Committee for Islander Feminists should work with student orgs like SGA to bring a student perspective on how these issues affect students to the administration of our school," Leal said. "To fix these issues, we have to address them, and a goal I have for both of these groups is to continue to fight for space on campus to have the voices of students with disabilities pushed to the forefront of this conversation. As students, we have our voices, so let's give these students the opportunity to have theirs heard!"

Pride enables individuals to embrace and enjoy who they are. This is crucial for helping young people with disabilities understand that they are not defective and that there is a wide range of success and happiness within the disability community. Early discussion of disability fosters a nuanced knowledge of disability as a kind of diversity and encourages people to embrace their own and their peers' intersectional identities, including disability, as part of who they truly are.

The TAMU-CC Disability Services is here to help accommodate students. In order to support all students in attaining academic success, Disability Services is committed to providing services to and organizing academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Disability Services collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and the university to remove or reduce obstacles and promote inclusion on campus. Students can contact the office at 361-825-5816 or disability.services@tamucc.edu.



Photo courtesy of United Spinal Association.

July is the designated month to recognize and celebrate disability pride.

Corpus Christi Hooks fall to San Antonio Missions

Miranda Martinez | Managing Editor

On July 6, the Corpus Christi Hooks failed to take their third win of the series after the San Antonio Missions pounced on the Hooks in the 10th.

After a quick first, the Hooks catcher, C.J. Stubbs hit an RBI fielder's choice to score first baseman Jordan Brewer and put the home team on the board.

In the third, the Missions came back when right-fielder Jake Perez dinged one over the fence with the bases empty. After an uneventful third, the Hooks scored in the fourth after second baseman J.C. Correa hit a line drive, giving Brewer another run on the night.

After five innings with goose eggs between the third and eighth inning, the Missions came back to life in the ninth. Designated hitter Cole Cummings, hit a homerun to right center field, forcing extras, even though the Hooks had led almost the whole game.

At the top of the tenth inning, Perez was placed on second base due to the new rules for extras. Third baseman Juan Fernandez grounded a ball past first base into right field, allowing Perez to score and Fernandez to reach second base. Second baseman Ripken Reyes proceeded to bunt a single towards third, giving Fernandez the opportunity to reach third base. Reyes followed this play by stealing second base. Center-fielder Daniel Johnson then hit a home run with Reyes and first baseman Michael De La Cruz on bases, giving the Missions a four-run lead. The Missions ended the inning after left fielder Pedro Castellanos struck out and shortstop Ray-Patrick Didder grounded out.

Afterwards, the Hooks began the bottom of the tenth with catcher Garrett Wolforth on second base, followed by right fielder Kenedy Corona striking out. Center-fielder Drew Gilbert would then walk. The Hooks would fail to gain any momentum after that with both left fielder Zach Daniels and designated hitter Colin Barber striking out.

The Hooks ended up winning four of the six games against the Missions in this series. Next up, the Hooks will travel to North Little Rock, Arkansas to face the Arkansas Travelers through July 14-16. They will face the Missions again at Wolff Stadium in San Antonio through July 25-30.

For more information about the Corpus Christi Hooks, please visit <https://www.milb.com/corpus-christi>.



Outfielder Colin Barber walks onto the field

Photo Courtesy of the Corpus Christi Hooks via Twitter.

Art Walk Mini Gallery

Lillian Crane | Photographer



A local karate studio performs a live demonstration for the artwalk.



Local performer, Victoria Jane, sings at the artwalk.



Artwalk visitors watch in awe as a spray painter works on a painting.

ART WALK

What to Expect at Corpus Christi Comic Con 2023

Chloe Tilley | Interim Editor-in-Chief

Corpus Christi Comic Con is Corpus Christi's premiere comic book convention that takes place annually at the American Bank Center. Founded in 2017 by Daniel Benavides, the convention is the pop culture convention serving Corpus Christi, the Coastal Bend, and the Gulf Coast. The convention attracts fans of various genres and mediums, including horror, fantasy, sci-fi, films, video games, anime, and cosplay.

Corpus Christi Comic Con offers a welcoming environment for all types of fans and lots of family-friendly attractions. The exhibition hall boasts over 100 vendors offering toys, comic books, magazines, and collectibles. Guests can also attend various panels, cosplay contests, and "how-to" workshops. Visitors can look forward to having their pictures taken with celebrities and enjoy panels and autograph signings.

Daniel Benavides, the co-owner of Corpus Christi Comic Con expresses how his experience has been as one of the coordinators of the convention. "The experience has been tremendous. Over the years, my passion has grown bigger than me. Hearing and seeing the joy from attendees is definitely one of the things that fuels me," he said via email.

This summer, the convention is hosting big-name celebs to grace guests with their much-anticipated appearances.

On April 10, the Corpus Christi Comic Con Instagram, @cctxcomiccon, made their premiere guest announcement for 2023's show, Sean Astin. Astin is most famous for his roles as Samwise Gamgee in the Lord of the Rings film trilogy, Mike Walsh in The Goonies, Daniel Ruettinger in Rudy, and Bob Newby in Stranger Things. He is this year's most anticipated guest and will be making appearances on Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30.

"Sean [Astin] has been someone we have been interested in for a long time. We were finally able to make it happen with him and his agency. The response has been very exciting," Benavides said.

Another highly anticipated guest is Michael Rooker, who is most known for his roles in Guardians of the Galaxy as Yondu and The Walking Dead as Merle Dixon.

Another highly known guest to look out for this year at C4 is Chandler Riggs, who is most famous for his role as Carl Grimes in the hit TV show The Walking Dead.

"We look at who makes sense and who our attendees would like to see. There are so many great fandoms to choose from," Benavides said, on how Corpus Christi Comic Con goes about choosing guests to feature.

Other guests include Rachael Lillis, Michael Stuart, Carey Jones, Scott Innes, Judith Hoag, Nakia Burrise, Johnny Yong Bosch, Steve Cardenas, Dorian Kingi, Emily Swallow, Yanic Truesdale, and Scott Patterson. This year's featured artists include Carlo Barberi, Sam de la Rosa, Clinton Hobart, Brittney Jackson, and Edward Kraatz II.

"We have developed a ton of relationships over the years and have met a ton of talented artists, so it is not hard to choose from this sea of people," Benavides said about selecting which artists to showcase at Corpus Christi Comic Con.

The local convention is still growing and the coordinators and owners have accepted every type of criticism to continue the convention's growth. "We welcome any and all feedback, both good and bad. That is how we grow in the right direction and that is how we have continued to grow and be successful over the years," Benavides said.

Corpus Christi Comic Con encourages all visitors to dress up or cosplay as their favorite

character(s). A three-day pass costs \$60, a Friday pass costs \$35, a Saturday pass costs \$45, and a Sunday pass costs \$40. Photo-ops with celebrity guests are available but are sold separately from event admission tickets.



Aerial View of a previous con showcasing the vendor area.

Photo courtesy of Corpus Christi Comic Con via facebook.

Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures Brings the Tanabata Star Festival to Corpus Christi

Dante Ortiz | Reporter

Star Festival, also known as Tanabata, made its way to the Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures and Education Center in downtown Corpus Christi allowing attendees to participate in Japanese culture.

The night started with a story reading of the fairytale behind Tanabata that features Princess Orihime and Prince Hikoboshi, two star-crossed lovers who began ignoring their duties in the sky and have been separated and can only meet on Tanabata—the seventh day of the seventh month.

Attendees could sing Japanese karaoke, wear traditional kimonos or yukatas, and try their hand at Japanese toys and calligraphy.

The outreach initiative coordinator, Hitomi, shared her excitement about bringing Japan to Corpus Christi, allowing guests to enrich their knowledge and experience of Japanese culture.

“We want to introduce Tanabata because it is a very big event in Japan, so it’s a good chance to bring that here. Many people know about anime, manga, and ramen, but if they know a little bit about Japanese culture, they can enjoy anime and manga more,” Hitomi stated. The

The next event on the schedule was Suikawari, a watermelon break. The game consisted of a watermelon being placed on the ground, and each participant was blindfolded, spun around, and given a wooden stick, then made their way to the watermelon to hit it three times to break it open.

Local vendors also participated in the Star Festival, selling art, pokemon cards, desserts, and lemonade. Two food trucks were also present, offering Filipino and Japanese cuisine, further adding to the experience.

Richard Hayes Meister, the Director of Operations at the museum, expressed his enthusiasm for showcasing the Tanabata Star Festival. “We wanted to introduce Japanese culture to our community, and the Tanabata Star Festival seemed like a perfect way to accomplish that,” stated Meister

Hitomi shared insights into the festival’s history and significance. “The Tanabata Star Festival originated in China but was introduced to Japan over a thousand years ago,” explained Hitomi. “It revolves around the tale of two celestial lovers, Altair (Hikoboshi) and Vega (Orihime), who can only meet once a year at night because Orihime and Hikobashi are stars in the sky. Orihime was in charge of making a

kimono, and as she made it, her weaving made a beautiful sound. And the people enjoyed it. Hikobashi heard the sound as he played the flute and thought it matched his tune perfectly. They met each other and fell in love at first sight. Then they forget about their job, spending their time talking, singing, and making music, so Orihime’s father, king of the sky, became so angry that he separated them in the Milky Way so they could meet only once a year,” shared Hitomi.

A display outside gave attendees the chance to decorate a piece of paper and write a wish on it to hang up on a bamboo tree. This tradition reflects how the lovers had their wish granted to be together, so if festival goers make a wish, it may come true just like Orihime and Hikobashi’s did.

Meister and Hitomi expressed their gratitude for the vendors and the participants who were able to make it out this year. They hoped the festival would foster a greater sense of community and inspire interest in diverse cultures.

Meister emphasized, “We want people to not only enjoy the festival but also learn about its cultural and historical significance.”

The Museum’s Tanabata Star Festival allows it to continue its mission to educate and inspire people about Asian cultures and their histories.

The Star Festival took place July 8th, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, with Admission being

\$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors/military, \$4.00 for students, and \$3.00 for children 4-12. The Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures and Education is located at 1809 N. Chaparral Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401, and is open Wednesday through Saturday, 12:00-5:00 pm.



Lillian Crane | Photographer

The hall of lanterns within the Texas State of Asian Cultures & Education Center.

Texas is Baking—Not in A Good Way. How to Still Have Fun and Stay Safe

Alyssa Hinojosa | Riptide Anchor

Much of the South in the United States has experienced record-breaking heat conditions this year. Since summer has started, daily heat warnings have been advised for individuals to stay indoors as well as to save on power during these warm times. During this time, the high heat levels have hit much of South Texas, South Florida, and Southwest of the US.

According to KIII News, "...Average high temperature this June (96.2 degree F) was also hotter than June 2013's average high (96.1 deg F). Of the 20 hottest days of the year so far, 19 came from the month of June alone." With June coming to an end, Texas will have to endure 2 more months of the heat. According to a heat index chart on the New York Times story "Misery Engulfs the South as Heat Wave Spreads" from Tuesday through Sunday show the progression of the heat as the week goes on. From Tuesday to Friday, the heat wave map has a majority of Texas in the danger zone. But as the days go on, the heat wave travels further south of Texas. Corpus Christi is consistently in the danger zone in the heat index.

With the dangerous heat levels during a time where families spend more time outdoors or activities to do outside of their AC homes, parents are struggling to find ways to stay safe while making the most of summer. Here are some activities families or students can do while also staying cool this summer. There is one summer activity we highly recommend students and families to be wary of:

Beaches.

Corpus Christi's hottest tourist attraction is the beaches along the Gulf of Mexico. Recently the Environment America, a research and advocacy program that works towards clean water, wildlife, and livable climate, conducted a study on more than 3,000 beaches across the country's coast. Six beaches that showed signs for fecal bacteria to be in the waters are located in Nueces County.

Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium is home to 4,000 wildlife animals and aquatic creatures. According to their website, "Break into the mesmerizing secrets of the underwater world or journey through the jungle with tropical plants and trees, flamingos, macaws,

sharks, alligators, and much more." With 17 exhibits for everyone to explore, this can become an exciting adventure for students and staff to experience.

USS Lexington

The USS Lexington is a World War II Navy ship that arrived in Corpus Christi in 1992. Also known as "The Blue Ghost," the aircraft was brought in "... as a result of active fundraising, strong community support, and the world's oldest aircraft carrier has since served as a naval aviation museum, educational facility, and popular area tourist attraction." Attractions that visitors will enjoy are the Escape Rooms, The Flight Deck, Joe Jessel 3D MEGA Theater, Pearl Harbor Exhibit, Scale Models, and the Flight Simulator.

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

What was originally Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens was then changed in 1996 to Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens & Nature Center (STBGNC). It was renamed the "South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center," to reflect its impact, service area, blend of fl Texas State Aquarium natural wetlands, native habitat, resident exotic parrot collection and Resident Reptile exhibit. The STBGNC offers a Flora, Fauna, and Wild Side attraction so guests can interact with the nature trails, animals, and plants.

Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

Established in 1957, the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History's (CCMSH) mission is to educate and immerse children into the world of science and history. Exhibits that are offered for the public to see are the Coastal Ecology, Corpus Christi History, H-E-B Science Center and more.

Century 16 Movie Theater

Located near Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Century 16 Movie Theater offers the newest blockbuster films to be seen on the big screen. Films that are currently on audiences' number one list to see are "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer." Both films are set to release on July 21, 2023.

Hurricane Alley Waterpark

With over 12,000 square foot wave pools and 750-foot of the lazy river, families can have a chance to cool off from the record breaking heat in the cool water at Hurricane Alley Waterpark. With thrilling rides, tube slides, and racing slides for friends to have a safe race on, Hurricane Alley is fun for everyone.

Fire It! Ceramics

Ceramics is an activity that has become more popular in recent years. Fire It! Ceramics offers children, youth groups, staff team-building, and adults a chance to color, brush, and paint their own selected ceramic art piece.

Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Corpus Christi

While getting to watch an anticipated film, audiences at Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Corpus Christi can also enjoy their award-winning cuisine, cocktails, and craft-beers. Opened since 1997, Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Corpus Christi has been quoted saying, "The Alamo Draffhouse Theater is good food, good beer and good film, all at the same place!"

CCA Marine Development Center

"The CCA Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi is the first state-operated hatchery and visitor center, and is one of the best kept secrets in Texas." said Texas Parks and Wildlife. The CCA Marine Development Center offers educational programs such as tours, CCA Redfish Hatchery Project (curriculum developed for fifth grade students), Kidfish Events (scheduled for youth groups ages 17 and under), and Angler Education. The hatchery projects conducted by the CCA Marine Development center have produced juvenile red drum and spotted seatrout and released them into the Texas bay.

Bowlero

At Bowlero, guests can bowl, play in the arcade, laser tag, billiards, and enjoy the sports bar with HD flat-screen TVs. Guests can beat the hot temperatures outdoors and have fun with friends and family inside at Bowlero.

Ways to "Beat the Heat" in Corpus

Texas State Aquarium

Tickets are \$37.95
with your
Sanddolar ID!

Hurricane Alley Waterpark!

WEEKDAYS \$20
WEEKENDS \$25

Fire It! Ceramics

Choose the perfect
piece and make
it your own!

Bowlero

Bowling, Lazer Tag
and an Arcade
all in one place!

Aldo Calucho | Graphic Designer

USS Lexington 
Open from 9am - 6pm

 Alamo Drafthouse Cinema
Century 16 Movie Theatre
Catch New Blockbusters!

South Texas Botanical
Gardens & Nature Center
Students for \$7

Corpus Christi Museum of
Science and History
Learn about Corpus
and our surroundings!

CCA Marine Development Center
Take a tour!

Art Museum of South Texas

Get in for FREE
with your
Sanddolar ID!

Fourth of July Gallery

Lillian Crane | Photographer



Bright fireworks light up the sky for 4th of July.



Beautiful fireworks wow the citizens of Corpus Christi.



Fireworks shine for Corpus Christi Bay.



Families line along Ocean Drive to sit and watch the fireworks for 4th of July.



People walk by Corpus Christi Bay to the Cole Park Pier.



Corpus Christi residents walk to Cole park to get a closer view of the fireworks.

Folk Singer-Songwriter Olive Klug Writes to Connect Through The Screen

Faith Cooper | Former Staff Member

With the rise of social media platforms like TikTok, artists can reach fans worldwide in a matter of seconds. While discovering new artists this easily is exciting, it's often overwhelming. Emerging from this sea of content is Olive Klug. An openly queer folk singer-songwriter, they have drawn a dedicated audience through their heartfelt lyricism and authenticity. Pulling inspiration from Joni Mitchell and Brandi Carlile, their music offers a sense of hope and childhood wonder. I had the privilege of meeting with Klug over Zoom to chat about their single "Song About America", connecting with their inner child, advocacy in music, and their upcoming album *Don't You Dare Make Me Jaded*.

Klug has used music as a form of expression since they were a child: "I can't really remember a time when I wasn't prioritizing music as a means to express myself." They explained, "my dad would play Joni Mitchell, Simon and Garfunkel, and Neil Young in the car. He liked rock too, but I would always ask him to play the singer-songwriters...I also took piano lessons from a really young age so I was able to understand the language of music pretty early on." That early exposure to singer-songwriters has influenced their distinctive style, which they describe as "very lyrically-forward folk singer-songwriter music." They smiled, "something I get weirdly embarrassed about is that my music is very earnest, it's not experimental. I think in the world of L.A. queer people, everyone is really into experimental indie music. I don't even know what instruments they're playing!" They held their hands up in the air, laughing. They emphasized: "my music isn't 'cool'. It's earnest, it's very emotional." Although we were laughing, it's clear their earnest writing is the reason Klug has gained so much traction as an artist. Their music is self-reflective and poignant without the weight of excessive metaphors.

They've managed to build an audience online because they write to connect with others through the screen. Their songs remain accessible to a wide audience without sacrificing artistic depth.

Klug's latest single, "Song About America" is distinctly different from the rest of their catalog. While stylistically it's relatively consistent with their previous work, "Song About America" also tackles the political state of America. The song is raw and haunting, with lyrics such as "Unmarked graves/

Jesus saves/Keep your credit up and your head down/You better keep your credit up and your head down." Klug and producer Derek Ted chose to make the track a single live take on tape, which also makes it unique from the rest of their work. "I get a lot of comments from people saying 'I prefer seeing you live over hearing your recorded music'... I think that, in the recording process, in making things really neat and clean and comping vocals, sometimes the 'magic' really gets lost... [Derek Ted] said: 'Let's just do a live take on a tape, because adding production I think would take away from the meaning of the song. It's almost poetry, instead of a produced song that people listen to as easy listening'." As provocative as "Song About America" is, Klug still remains optimistic near the end of the track, singing "I think we're coming back/we're coming back around." Additionally, Klug also donated a dollar to the Trevor Project (an LGBTQ+ support organization) for each time someone pre-saved the single. "I feel so lucky that I have the large platform that I do. Because I remember when I was doing activism work in college I didn't have this platform. It was a very different experience. Advocacy is something that I personally feel really passionate about." Even in the wake of tragedy, Klug offers hope and actively supports their community.

That sense of hope, and the preservation of childhood wonder, is a common theme throughout Klug's work. When asked how they remain hopeful, they explained: "I always tell people that I never disconnected

with my inner child...why do people stop having fun when they're an adult?...To stay hopeful, having joyful moments with people I love. Just prioritizing joy and making sure that you're seeking that out and taking care of yourself".

Olive Klug's next single, "Ghost of Avalon" will be released July 28th. Additionally, their debut album, *Don't You Dare Make Me Jaded* will be released August 11th. You can find Olive Klug on social media platforms as @OliveKlug. Their music is available to stream on all platforms.



Olive Klug

Photo by Nicole Ditt

Speak Now (Taylor's Version) is 'Timeless'

By **Miranda Martinez** | Managing Editor

The first time I remember listening to Taylor Swift was in 2012. Her album "Red" had just been released and I was captivated by "Starlight," "The Lucky One," and "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." Just like that, I was hooked. 11 years later, I am happy to say that her rerecording of her third album, "Speak Now," captivated me the exact same way.

Completely self-written, 'Speak Now,' has always been a personal favorite of mine. So, following her announcement of its re-release during her Nashville concert for the "Eras Tour," I started counting down to July 7.

"On the eve of its release, I waited patiently with a group of friends to listen to the album. Our first reaction was awe."

On the eve of its release, I waited patiently with a group of friends to listen to the album. Our first reaction was awe. Between the overall improvement of her voice, and the improved production on tracks,

such as the additional guitar riffs in "Dear John," Swift changed the album for the better.

Following the album's 16 original songs, we heard the six vault tracks (songs which did not make the first release of the album). Those vault tracks include "When Emma Falls In Love," "Electric Touch," "Timeless," "Castle Crumbling," "I Can See You," and "Foolish One." "Electric Touch" featured Fall Out Boy, while "Castle Crumbling" featured Hayley Williams, the lead singer of Paramore.

At my friend's listening party, "I Can See You" surprised us the most. Specifically the production on the song since it did not match the overall feeling of Speak Now. However, this did not stop us from loving the song. Instead, it gave the album a breath of fresh air that we did not know it needed.

After listening to all the tracks, my personal favorite ended up being "Timeless," which recounts a tale of a woman walking into a store and being reminded of her partner and how their love is "Timeless."

Then, Swift followed the album's debut with the release of the "I Can See You" music video, which she directed and wrote, at her Kansas City concert for the

"Eras Tour." There, she invited the cast of the music video, Joey King, Taylor Lautner, and Presley Cash onto the stage and watched the video amongst a stadium full of fans.

Swift's casting choices for the music video paid homage to the first release and era of "Speak Now." With King and Cash originally starring in the 2010 music video for "Mean" and Lautner being Swift's alleged inspiration for "Back To December."

The album's re-release has also crushed records on Spotify, with it becoming the most streamed album in a single day for 2023. It also received the most streams within a single day for a country album.

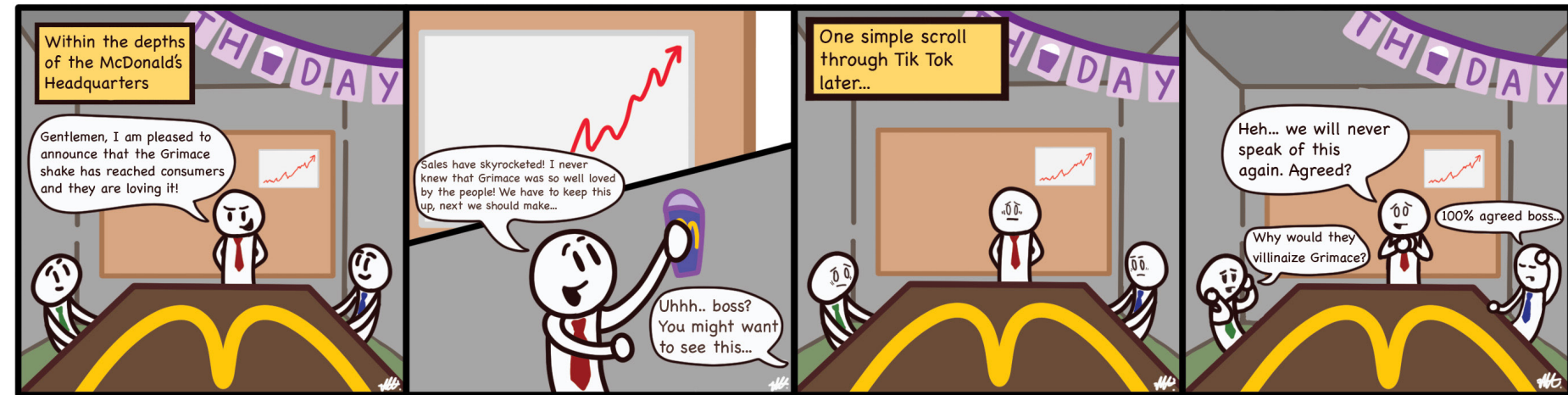
Swift began re-recording her first six albums after the master recordings were sold in 2019, even after expressing her desire to buy them. Since then, Swift has rerecorded "Fearless," "Red," and most recently, "Speak Now." To fully own her entire discography, she still needs to re-record "Taylor Swift," "1989," and "Reputation." However, she has not announced those release dates yet.

Now, Swift's fans have just one question. What will Taylor Swift do next?



Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Times.

“Grimace Shake”



Aldo Calucho | Graphic Designer

ISLAND WAVES

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