To relieve parking, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi released a notification on Friday, Aug. 13 to students about a new option available for use this week. A shuttle service would be made available for students to use from Momentum Campus on Monday, a first for the Island University.

Nursing major Austin Stout has now been at the University for four years and says that he has never experienced parking as of late on the Island before. “I have to come to school so much more early just to find a parking spot,” Stout said. “I have to carpool with my girlfriend even though I have classes later in the day, because if I wait till then, I cannot find parking.”

Stout also said that both he and his girlfriend bought parking passes but only one of them is being used now that they are carpooling. The student said that he thinks the University should have planned to implement a shuttle service earlier in the school year to prevent students from buying passes.

“I wish they would have had (the shuttle service) sooner,” said Stout. “Whenever you have to park in Momentum, that’s free and defeats the whole purpose of buying a parking pass.”

The “Park & Ride” service will supply students with a shuttle service to and from Momentum Campus, which is located on Nile Drive off of Enis Joslin Road. The shuttle will leave Momentum Campus every ten minutes, where students can park their car in the one of two parking lots available in the facilities for free. After 1 p.m. the shuttle service will leave every 20 minutes.

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Something better is coming this Fall...

11.14.13

MYASPENHEIGHTS.COM/INTERESTLIST
Islanders find value in Hispanic heritage, history

While A&M-Corpus Christi kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, former Islander creates virtual gallery of notable Latinos in Corpus Christi

by ERIKA GALINDO
managing editor

Even though the rain kept students running between buildings, it did not put a damper on the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff celebration on Monday, Sept. 16. The event was hosted by the Islander Cultural Alliance and welcomed students who were walking a significant role the University Center hallway on their way to classes.

Dina Ruiz stood in the entrance of the UC, encouraging students to make their way to the ballrooms with the promise of free tortas and Spanish rice catered by Chartwells, the food service’s provider for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, helped put the kickoff together.

This event really is just the kickoff for the rest of Hispanic Heritage Month events,” Ruiz said. “I think the students will love the this since it’s going on in the middle of the day. It will be a nice break in between classes.”

Ruiz and other students also ate ice cream made by La Brisas Ice cream Makers, a regionally owned ice cream maker that makes popular flavors in South Texas and Mexico.

Hispanic Heritage Month was first celebrated in 1968 under the title Hispanic Heritage Week, a national observation implemented by President Lyndon Johnson. In 1988 Ronald Reagan expanded the holiday to 30 days beginning on Sept. 15, a date significant due to the fact that Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their Independence day on this date. Mexico’s Independence Day is celebrated on September 16 and Chile celebrates their independence on Sept. 18.

Hispanic Heritage month officially ends on October 15. The holiday was signed into law on Aug. 17, 1988.

In another attempt to help bridge the leap between history in the textbooks to history books includes an attempt by A&M-Corpus Christi alumna Nancy Vera.

President-Elect of A&M-Corpus Christi Alumnae Association Vera has been conducting independent research for her website Inspirational Voyages, a website created to provide History to Mexican-Americans of Corpus Christi.

Vera is currently an English teacher at Mary Carroll High School and says that recovering Mexican American’s history is a continuing project that is important for the diverse group that makes up the Hispanic population.

“The fact of the matter is we are people who need history and need to know our identity,” Vera said. “What we need to do is celebrate our culture and people in Texas. We were discriminated and persecuted because of the color of our skin.”

Inspirational Voyages also contains current Corpus Christi citizens that play a significant role in the city. Those featured include Judge Marisela Saldana and Dr. Leonardo Carrillo, Professor of Ethnic Studies at A&M-Corpus Christi.

The University will spend the rest of the month of September and part of October celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with informative events. These include History lessons hosted by various A&M-Corpus Christi professors and even games of bingo in the UC.

“The University does offer a wide variety of programs that works to engage Hispanics as well as other cultures on campus throughout the year,” Ruiz said. “There are several Hispanic cultural student organizations that work hard throughout the year to engage other students about their identity as Hispanics.”

Inspirational Voyages can be visited at mexicanhistory.org.

Erika Galindo

Students moved the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations to the UC Ballrooms after the weather forced the activities indoors. Piñata breaking was part of the festivities meant for the outdoors.

Erika Galindo

**Notable Mexican-Americans from Corpus Christi**

Dora Mirabal

Dora Cervera Mirabal (1914-1979) was a publisher, editor, and journalist and philanthropist. She was the first Latina in Corpus Christi and possibly the state to publish a newspaper. She wrote over 25,000 poems (Calaveras) during her lifetime and is considered “The Mother of Bilingual Education,” as Clara Driscoll called her.

Leonardo Carrillo

Dr. Leo Carrillo was a former professor of Ethnic Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Originally from Benavides, Texas, he has spent a majority of his life in Corpus Christi. Dr. Leo Carrillo retired in 2003.

JA Garcia

Jose Antonio Garcia (1912-1971) was the first Mexican-American to serve on the Del Mar College Board of Regents and the first to serve on the Corpus Christi Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Selena Quintanilla

Selena Quintanilla Perez (1971-1995) was the first female singer in the Tejano genre. She managed to crossover into English language music success before she was gunned down by the President of her fan club outside of a Days Inn in Corpus Christi.
Mike Henneberger won an Emmy during the Sept. 15 ceremony for Outstanding Interactive Program for his work on television show Workaholics. Henneberger was on staff for two years and worked as entertainment editor. After graduating from A&M-Corpus Christi in 2012, he received an internship at Comedy Central.

University on Hurricane watch

Hurricane Ingrid entered Mexico on Sept. 15, which prompted the University to notify students. Upon publica-
tion, the University had yet to change schedules but some activities on campus were moved indoors. Students are notified of any emergency plans or changes in schedules with the Code Blue Emergency System.

Breaking ground

The University Center Groundbreaking was held on Sept. 10 prior to President’s Picnic. The University Center currently only accommodates 6,500 students. The University Center expansion will add 35,000 square-feet.

Continued from PAGE 1

Parking

the construction of the Bayside Parking Garage.

With the current expansion projects taking place on the University, Jellyfish parking lot, which is located to the left of the University Center is currently closed. The Minnow parking lot, which was also available closest to the UC is also closed.

These closures coupled with the fact that the University has reported a record enrollment in the fall semester has led to a particularly high congestion of traffic on campus.

Due to the surge in student enrollment this semester, parking passes to Bayside Parking Garage are currently sold out. The garage is still available for use, but drivers need to pay a daily fee which increases with time spent in the garage. Parking passes are currently sold for $66 per semester or $124 for the school year.

Students also have the option of paying $150 for a parking pass valid through the summer semesters or $320 for the school year.

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Construction has overtaken Jellyfish and Minnow parking lot this semester during the UC Expansion. The University recently added a Park&Ride service to alleviate parking on campus.

Parking administration officials deny this and say that the University only sold passes for the space that was actually available.

Students can still purchase parking passes from the Student Services building. Parking pass rates are currently sold for $66 per semester or $124 for fall and spring. Students also have the option of paying $150 for a parking pass valid through the summer semesters or $320 for the school year.
Fantasy Football: off-the-field fun for fans

by ALEXIS DE LEON
sports editor

Fantasy football has long since been in the hearts of just about everybody red-blooded American boy and a few girls since its introduction in the early 20's. Since that time, football's popularity has grown immensely. So much so that, today, the NFL has the highest average attendance (67,591) of any professional sports league in the world and is the most popular sports league in the United States.

Keeping these stats in mind it would stand to reason that fantasy football would also grow in popularity. However, according to "How Fantasy Football Works," fantasy football has been around for decades, specifically since 1963 in New York City when Oakland Raiders partner Willfred "Bill" Winkenbach, PR manager Bill Tunnel, and former reporter Scotty Stillings developed the rules in the lobby of a hotel.

Just recently, due to the growth of the Internet however, Fantasy football has vastly increased in popularity, particularly because fantasy football providers such as ESPN, Yahoo, CBS, and the NFL itself are able to keep track of statistics entirely online, eliminating the need to check box scores and newspapers regularly to keep track of players.

"My league was created by friends, but run by Yahoo," junior athletic trainer Reno Puente said. "We had a 20 dollar buy-in with ten teams for our league we called "Little Pony."

Fantasy football is an interactive competition that, most recently, can be played completely online where users compete against each other as general managers of virtual teams built from actual NFL players. Users are able to draft, trade, add or drop players, and change rosters. Most leagues have a single week championship in week 16 of the NFL season.

There are several different types of fantasy football leagues (ten to be exact) but the two most popular types are: head-to-head and total points leagues.

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"I'm in a league that has been going four years strong," senior finance student David Burns said. "This year was the first year we did a live draft. Everyone met in Austin at a friend's house and we played a poker tournament to decide the draft order Friday night and, on Saturday afternoon, watched preseason football and did a draft."

"While many leagues are just for the glory of winning and love of the game, others have certain buy-ins and a cash prize for the winners."

"The buy in was 100 dollars per team with ten teams total," Burns said. "The payout will be 700, 200 and 100 dollars for first, second and third place, respectively."

Players earn their team points based on the performances of each NFL player in their weekly games. For example, each touchdown counts as 6 points, a certain number of yards gained counts for points, and so on.

In almost all cases, players earn points for passing, rushing, and receiving yards. Passing yards (sometimes touchdowns as well) typically earn about half as many points as rushing/receiving yards, since QBs normally get many more, and kickers earn points for field goals and extra points (sometimes negative points for missed kicks). Negative points are also usually given for turnovers. Bonuses can also be given for exceptionally good performances, like a QB throwing for over 300 yards, or a kicker making a 53-yard field goal. Team defenses earn points for things like sacks, turnovers, safeties, etc. Individual defensive players typically do not earn points for team-wide stats such as keeping the opponent under a certain score or yardage total, but rather for tackles or turnovers made.

Some would say the fantasy of football is just as good as the real thing, or at least worth the cost.
Islanders cross country teams place sixth at Rice Invitational

by ALEXIS DE LEON

The air was thick with moisture and excitement Friday evening for the running of the 38th Annual Justin F. Cooper Memorial Rice Invitational at Rice University, where the Texas A&M–Corpus Christi men’s and women’s cross country teams placed sixth Friday at the Justin F. Cooper Memorial Rice Invitational.

The New Braunfels native and senior Colby Talley has been team roping for seven years after the age of 16. He said the adrenaline of the event is the best part of the sport.

“Definitely the adrenaline of the event and the adrenaline undoubtedly pumping through the rope’s veins, there is times when the event quickly shifts from fun to frustrating.”

Despite the fast-paced nature of the event and the adrenaline, there are also times when I’ve had the least amount of fun have been when I’ve lost,” Talley said.

“They times when I have come close to winning a buckle, I’ve never been so happy.”

Talley won a buckle which came at a very big price because it was the buckle for my dad’s memorial rodeo. “

The New Braunfels native made the move to Corpus Christi this year with help from his family and his earnings in order to attend Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. Though he had to sell his horse, Poncho, Talley plans to continue his father’s legacy in team roping.

Talley is pursuing a degree in athletic management, which means he hopes to put to use in later years for rodeo participants. “I try to squeeze roping around my schooling but it doesn’t affect it too much," Talley said.

“Just last weekend, I went back home to practice on a new horse but that’s just practice — that doesn’t include the time it takes to groom the horse, take care of the animals and keep them in shape. I’d say I spend about 12 to 24 hours a week taking care of my horse.”

Talley said he volunteers his time at the Brent Thurman memorial each year in San Antonio, teaching children and adults with disabilities how to rope.

Talley plans to keep riding in his hometown until he is able to keep a new horse nearby.

“Once I make the right connections down here and get into a rhythm of not letting my horse just run around for a month and a half and expect to win a competition, I’ll start riding in Corpus,” Talley said.

“If you want to know if you’re ready to rope, put a handful of marbles in your mouth and each time you ride your horse spit a marble out. Once you’ve lost all your marbles, you’ll be ready for the rodeo.”

Islanders cross country teams place sixth at Rice Invitational

by ALEXIS DE LEON

Freshman Colby Talley moved to Corpus Christi from New Braunfels to pursue a degree in athletic training at the Island University. When he is not in class, Talley practices roping, participates in rodeos and shares his passion for the sport with others in memory of his father.

Freshman ropes, rides in father’s memory

Women’s soccer

Statistics

Sept. 13

Courtyard Marriott Wilmington Invitational final scores:

Islanders 2 – UNC Wilmington 4

What’s next

Sept. 20

Islanders vs. Southeastern Louisiana 4 p.m. at Dugan Stadium

Sept. 22

Islander vs. Nicholls 1 p.m. at Dugan Stadium

Women’s volleyball

Statistics

Sept. 13

Hilton Maverick Classic

Islanders 3 – Miss. Valley State 1

What’s next

Sept. 19

Islanders vs. Houston Baptist 7 p.m. at Houston, Texas

Sept. 20

Cowboys Night Islanders vs. Texas-Pan American 7 p.m. at Dugan Wellness Center

Rodeo dreams come true

Freshman Colby Talley moved to Corpus Christi from New Braunfels to pursue a degree in athletic training at the Island University. When he is not in class, Talley practices roping, participates in rodeos and shares his passion for the sport with others in memory of his father.

Freshmen ropes, rides in father’s memory

by ALEXIS DE LEON

Freshman Colby Talley has been team roping since he can remember and about a year and a half ago, he decided to take his horse sense to a new level.

Today, Talley passes the time maintaining the team roping event at the rodeo.

“As a team roper, I am on a two person team where one person catches the head of a steer while the other catches the back or two legs,” Talley said. “Fastest time wins, but there are all kinds of different penalties.”

According to rodeo regulations, team roping, also known as heading and heeling, is an event that features a steer — usually Corriente or Spanish cattle — and two mounted riders.

The first roper, called the “header,” ropes the front of the steer usually around the horns. It also is legal for the rope to loop around the neck or go around one horn and the nose, resulting in what is called a “half head.”

The second roper is the “heeler,” who ropes the steer by its hind feet, with a five second penalty assessed to the end of time if only one leg is caught. Team roping is the only rodeo event where men and women compete equally together in professionally sanctioned competition, in single gender or mixed gender teams.

“I started competing when I was about 16 or 17,” Talley said. “It was something my dad and I could do together. He had been doing it since he was little and so, of course, it was passed on to me because his brother roped. I had cousins who roped and it was really just something I did for him, just for fun.”

Despite the fast-paced nature of the event and the adrenaline, there are also times when I’ve had the least amount of fun have been when I’ve lost,” Talley said. “I’ve taught my hands in the ropes before and almost pulled my thumbs completely off, rope burn clean down to the bone.

“My dad has had the rope wrap around his wrists and completely cauterize them. So there is a lot of damage and injuries involved, but it can be fun at the same time.”

Certain rodeos will pay the ropers a substantial winning prize amount while others will compensate the ropers with buckles, saddles and in some cases, even pick-up trucks.

“Times when I have come close to winning first place, I’ve been paid,” Talley said. “I’ve had friends who have won trucks and my dad even won a trailer once.

However, I have won once and a buckle which came at a very big price because it was the buckle for my dad’s memorial rodeo.”

The New Braunfels native made the move to Corpus Christi this year with help from his family and his earnings in order to attend Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. Though he had to sell his horse, Poncho, Talley plans to continue his father’s legacy in team roping.

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With many of video-games focusing on the latest and greatest graphics, it's hard to find a game with heart. However, in the heap of those that lack I have managed to find a game that has heart and much more. "Shelter" by Indie developer Might and Delight is one that is worth checking out.

Not only does "Shelter" have heart, but it presents it with a twist. In this game, you play as a mother badger who has to protect her cubs from the elements—from natural forces, to predators and the ever-present threat of starvation. She must dive into caves, logs and tall grass to find a little bit of "Shelter" from these antagonistic forces.

Game play is straightforward, consisting of gathering and distributing food and trying to survive each peril you come across. The controls did feel a little clumsy and awkward, but this is forgivable considering that the game makes up for it with a tutorial that is experienced in-game and by not overcomplicating itself with unnecessary glitz.

"Shelter" is broken up into chapters that each deal with an individual challenge that the badger family must face. However, the game is not very long and can definitely be completed in one afternoon which may leave some players feeling unsatisfied.

"Shelter" is a game that might not be for everyone. Some players may see it as a pointless adventure and feel unsatisfied by this game's story and resolution. However, Might and Delight have created a story with feelings and sentiments often lost in the bustle of everyday life and takes a peek at the abstract concept of what it means to survive. Poignant moments happen throughout this game created and experienced by the gamers themselves.

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From the beginning you are treated to an environment right out of a children's book, with soft, muted colors and beautiful landscapes. Everything seems perfect in the beginning of gameplay as you experience the world of "Shelter" as a happy badger family. To some the pacing may seem slow; however, it will give you time to not only figure out the controls and the gist of the game but also become attached to your cubs. This pacing paired with beautiful, minimalist music, by Retro Family, sets the mood of the game-world.

By the time you reach the midpoint of "Shelter" you will probably already have come to some conclusions about this game: either you don't see the point of it or you feel attached to this family as you find yourself relating to the mother badger's role. Each new section is either more of the same or a new environment that stirs up different feelings of uncertainty and fear, enveloped by a now familiar sense of responsibility for your cubs. Each victory becomes your victory and each loss becomes your loss.

"Shelter" is a game that might not be for everyone. Some players may see it as a pointless adventure and feel unsatisfied by this game's story and resolution. However, Might and Delight have created a story with feelings and sentiments often lost in the bustle of everyday life and takes a peek at the abstract concept of what it means to survive. Poignant moments happen throughout this game created and experienced by the gamers themselves.

A game can say, "Look, I want you to feel this way," but few can actually make you feel it. "Shelter" has made that connection.

You can find "Shelter" through Valve Corporation's gaming platform, Steam, or on website SheltertheGame.com.
A TAMUCC student’s inspiring story gets published

Due to the fact that nursing major Lauren Graham was all smiles during her interview, no one would have guessed that she is a stage-four cancer survivor. As of today she is in remission, or “cancer free,” and has recently published a book titled, “Seriously—Cancer? I do Not have time for this!”

When asked what it felt like to get her story published, Graham confessed that it felt very surreal. As a self-proclaimed bookworm, she was excited to add the term “author” to her list of achievements. The book is about her struggle with cancer.

When asked about what it was like to learn she had cancer, Graham admitted that she was angry about it at first. Despite this, that attitude takes second place to her message of staying positive and overcoming challenges. Although the diagnosis is usually equated with a death sentence, Graham saw it as just another obstacle to overcome.

Graham said that the biggest thing that helped her through cancer was her faith. “If I didn’t believe in God and I didn’t have that foundation then there’s no way I could have gotten through it,” Graham said.

She also stressed a positive attitude, saying, “A lot of it has to do with attitude. I don’t think I would have made it through if I didn’t have that attitude that I did.”

Although staying positive was a big part of her recovery, Lauren’s family and friends also played a huge role by offering her support. According to the American Cancer Society website, “Mental health care and emotional support can help patients and their loved ones better manage cancer and its treatment.”

As a nurse, Graham’s mother acted as an advocate for her during extended hospital stays, her brother was labeled as the comic relief, and in one passage of the book, her father was simply there for her. However, she did have one rule for them.

“I told my family that they weren’t allowed to cry around me,” Graham said. “They weren’t allowed to be negative around me, and if they were they had to go somewhere else. I just couldn’t deal with that.”

She was happy to report that they followed her lead on that and stayed positive.

Graham hopes that her story will be an inspiration to other people who are going through a hard time. She said that she wants people to know that if she could get through stage-four cancer then they could get through their own personal struggles.

Graham said, “There’s always a light at the end of the tunnel and no matter how bad your day is going, it’s going to get better.”

Graham’s story was published by Inspiring Voices, a service of Guideposts magazine, and can be found at Guideposts.org or through Amazon.com.

- Lauren Graham

There’s always a light at the end of the tunnel and no matter how bad your day is going, it’s going to get better.*

*Lauren Graham

reviews

from AMAZON.COM

INSIGHTFUL! by Shelley Dinkens ★★★★★

A very insightful book for anyone but Lauren was a late teen/young adult and so this book is written very well for that market. I’m having my nursing students read it as an insight to what cancer patients feel as they go through the testing and treatments. Very good read and very well written. The format is emails that she sent during her treatment.

INSPIRATIONAL BOOK FOR THOSE DEALING WITH CANCER by Katharine Blackmon ★★★★★

This is an amazing and inspirational book written by a young woman detailing her experience with life-threatening cancer. Lauren was a 21-year-old college student when she was given this cross to bear and she dealt with it with grace, faith, courage and humor. She details the trials she, her family and friends went through, always in an optimistic and encouraging manner. I recommend this book to anyone whose life is affected by cancer. She writes with humor, faith, encouragement and offers many suggestions on how to treat cancer victims/survivors. This is a very insightful book and recommend it to everyone.

I COULDN’T STOP READING! by Ann Solar ★★★★★

I really loved reading Lauren’s book. She spoke so openly about the daily struggles she went through. I loved reading all the emails that she composed and she is such a funny writer. Her faith in God was always apparent. I know this book will help many young people going through Cancer treatments. She is so brave and such a gifted writer. I hope she writes something else. God bless her and her family.
Names of our past

Students share their childhood nicknames

by KATHLEEN RAMIREZ
features editor

Mario Longoria, Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi communication major, is known as Super Mario to some of his friends.

Ashley Animashaun, a double major in finance and management, grew up being called Sleeping Beauty because I slept all day.”

Longoria has also heard, “It’s a me, Mario,” Longoria said. “When I was younger, people used to ask, ‘Where’s Luigi?’ Longoria said. “I really didn’t mind it. I loved Super Mario Bros when I was younger, and I still do. Plus, it’s actually a nice icebreaker sometimes when meeting new people.”

In addition to being called Super Mario, Longoria has also heard, “It’s a me, Mario,” but says he doesn’t mind it.

“The best part of having this nickname is that I get referenced to one of the greatest and most iconic video games of all time, and people love it,” Longoria said. “I’ve always had a good experience with it, so I can’t say that I’ve ever been frustrated or bothered by it.”

Older now, Longoria tends to go by his first name while at school and work, but says he has those close friends who still use his childhood nickname.

“Now that I’m older and closer to graduation, I prefer just my name because I’m going into the professional world,” Longoria said. “As I create close bonds with people though, I wouldn’t mind the nickname.”

Animashaun says her nicknames originated naturally, while others stem from a funny incident or from a childhood event.

“I actually have family members that call me Olive Oil, the tall lady from Popeye,” Animashaun said. “When I was younger, my family used to call me ash pot and Sleeping Beauty. I don’t know where ash pot came from, but they called me Olive Oil, the tall lady from Popeye, because of my stature,” Animashaun said.

Animashaun says her nicknames originated based on her personality and appearance.

“Since middle school I went by Ashley A, since my first name is so common and my last name is so long,” Animashaun said. “I think nicknames are good for class when you have more than two people with your name, like in my literature class, there is four Ashley’s so I told my professor to call me Ashley A.”

Both Longoria and Animashaun agree that having a nickname is a good thing, although there are some risks to it.

“I don’t mind being called Olive Oil because I loved watching Popeye, and it’s a funny nickname,” Animashaun said. “The best part of having a nickname is using it as a means to be alternatively identified, but the worst part is if you end up with that embarrassing nickname, usually given by family members, that sticks with you forever.”

Nicknames can serve as a creative description of a person’s talent or physical feature. Some nicknames originate naturally, while others stem from a funny incident or from a childhood event.

Students share their childhood nicknames

Name: Ashley Animashaun

Nicknames:

Super Mario
Sleeping Beauty
Olive Oil

Nicknames:

Ashley A

Nicknames:

Ash pot
Sleeping Beauty

Nicknames:

Ashley Animashaun

Nicknames:

Super Mario
Sleeping Beauty
Olive Oil

Nicknames:

Ash pot
Sleeping Beauty
Suicide of Martin Manley sheds light on age old question of dying old or young

by KATHERINE RAMIREZ
features editor

Today, I committed suicide.

Today, I committed suicide.

Today is August 15, 2013. Today is my 60th birthday. Today is the last day of my life. Today, I committed suicide.

Kansas City sports writer Martin Manley planned every detail of his death and made it available to the world on a website he published right before he took his life called ManleyLifeandDeath.com.

Manley first came up with the idea of ending his life on June 11, 2012, after he realized he wanted to end his life on his own terms. According to a post on his website, Manley realized he would rather commit suicide than live to be old and vulnerable.

"I wasn't going to hope someone would relieve my pain or come to see me when I was alone. I wasn't going to take a chance of ever running out of money or living in stress," Manley wrote. "I wasn't going to be exposed to people laughing at me or taking advantage of me. I did what I did because I was still on top at age 60, but lacked any confidence that I would be for much longer."

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students weigh in on Manley's death, and share their thoughts on suicide.

"Old age is going to happen to all of us, and it is scary. Old age is knowing that you may have to be in a nursing home and rely on someone for all your needs," Nelda Hernandez, business marketing major said. "Old age comes with walking not as fast, maybe not being able to talk or not being able to drive. I am not agreeing or disagreeing to what Martin Manley decided to do, but I do understand."

Education major Ryan Bennett said that he would prefer to die when he's older, but would consider the option of euthanasia if he felt he was being too much of a burden on his loved ones.

"I strongly disagree with suicide as a result of mental illness or depression, but in cases where it's used in the form of euthanasia I can begin to empathize," Bennett said. "I do not know if he was suffering physically or otherwise, however, I could and would argue that he should be able to make that decision for himself."

According to Manley's website, he wasn't suffering from depression, but was instead very involved in numerous activities such as church, choir, poker, browsing the internet and hanging out with friends and family. Manley also pointed out that he had no health, financial or legal problems, and that he hadn't suffered from any recent deaths in his family.

"People everyday are fighting to live. People who are healthy and have their whole life ahead of them should take advantage of the opportunity, and should do more," Hernandez said. "Suicide isn't the way out. Life isn't easy, and there will be bumps and detours that you have to be strong. Life isn't easy, and you can do it. You are a strong individual that has so much to give to society, to your family, friends and the world."

Theresa Sharpe, associate director for the University Counseling Center, believes that celebrity suicides are often hyped up and should instead be treated like the serious issue that it is.

"I think one of the downsides is that sometimes the media's attention to celebrity suicides is sort of sensationalized and made glamorous, and I think that's a very dangerous thing," Sharpe said. "Suicide is devastating to all the people around that person, and what we need at that time is more awareness and resources to help people with depression or people who are experiencing or dealing with suicide."

Sharpe encourages students who may be feeling depressed or suicidal to seek help immediately, and to not feel discouraged.

"Often when a person contemplates suicide, that's indicative of depression or they're feeling very hopeless and overwhelmed by their life. That's why it's really important when someone makes references to thoughts about killing themselves, that the person hearing that, whether it's a friend or family member, take that seriously and try to talk to the person about it," Sharpe said. "A lot of times a person who's having those kind of thoughts is in a very dark place, really feeling like there's perhaps no way out of whatever they're feeling or coping with, but being able to talk to someone who's concerned and cares about them can really make a tremendous difference."

Visit counseling.tamucc.edu or halfofus.com for more information on suicide prevention, or stop by the University Counseling Center for professional help. An after-hours emergency crisis hotline is also accessible day or night, at 1-800-SUICIDE.

Reporter's note: Manley's website explained in detail his motivation for dying and the arrangements for how he was to be found. The site first went up immediately following his death, but was shut down by Yahoo within a few days as it "violated" their terms of agreement. Hacker group Anonymous republished the site under MartinManley.org.

Celebrities who have attempted suicide

Vanilla Ice 1994
Drew Barrymore Childhood
Halle Barry 2007
Jack Osbourne 2002
Owen Wilson 2007
Fantasia Barrino 2010
Paris Jackson 2013
WHAT: The School of Arts, Media, and Communication students and faculty at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will host a software training series “Train + Gain 2013-2014.”
WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Graphic design media labs on campus.

WHAT: Dr. José Limón will be the guest speaker at the Hector P. Gar-cía State Holiday Celebration at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Friday.
WHEN: 5-6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Center for Instruction, Room 138.

WHAT: On behalf of the Spanish Program in the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Cristina Ortiz will host showings of films from a variety of countries.
WHEN: Sept. 23, and Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. Oct. 9, at 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: 09/23-Center for Instruction Room 127 10/01-Center for Instruction Room 127 10/09-Bay Hall Room 126.

WHAT: The College of Nursing and Health Sciences at will host a Health Fair
WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon
WHERE: Island Hall corridor.

WHAT: The Department of Music will present the School of Arts, Media & Communication’s “Sunday Afternoon Music Concert”
WHEN: 3:00 pm
WHERE: Performing Arts Center

WHAT: The School of Arts, Media and Communication (SAMC) at and the Corpus Christi Concert Ballet will host the 14th annual Bailando Dance Festival Gala Celebration Concert
WHEN: 7:30 pm
WHERE: Performing Arts Center

WHAT: The Office of Community Outreach will offer “Introduction to Kayaking” classes
WHEN: Sept. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 26 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: University pool in the morning, followed by a guided paddle trip in the Lighthouse Lakes Paddling Trail.

WHAT: The Office of Community Outreach will host a Health Fair
WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon
WHERE: Island Hall corridor.

WHAT: The School of Arts, Media and Communication (SAMC) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Concert Ballet will host the 14th annual Bailando Dance Festival Gala Celebration Concert
WHEN: 7:30 pm
WHERE: Performing Arts Center

WHAT: SOAR, the College of Science and Engineering, and ELITE at Tex- as A&M University-Corpus Christi will celebrate Hispanic Heri-
tage Month with a “Hispanic in Higher Ed: Inside Edition” event
WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon
WHERE: University Center, Lone Star Ballroom.

WHAT: On behalf of the Spanish Program in the College of Liberal Arts at, Dr. Melissa Culver will host two Read-A-Thon events where faculty, staff and students will read short excerpts of literary works by U.S. Latino/a authors
WHEN: Sept. 25 and Oct. 9
12:35 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: O’Connor, Room 135

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Kicking them while they’re down

AUSTERE IN AMERICA

The number of times I have seen ridiculous status updates from people I interact with about how annoyed they are that they are going to work to feed other people’s kids is nauseating. If I had more time to waste, I’d kindly point out that the majority of their dollars are going towards a ridiculous military effort that this country can clearly function without. This is the one thing I really don’t understand. If you really bothers conservative folks to simply see poor people, then why not create programs so as to help poor people stop being poor? Why not try to implement friendlier systems that are meant to help people instead of demonize them.

The fact is that you can’t have it both ways. You can’t loudly grumble about poor citizens being poor while making or supporting austerity cuts that will keep them poor. You also can’t complain about giving handouts when we keep bailing out banks and being lenient with corporations, even if you are arguing that they are the job creators. This argument has fallen flat, particularly because if corporations really were job creators, more folks to simply see poor people, then why not try to implement friendlier systems that are meant to help people instead of demonize them.

The fact is that you can’t have it both ways. You can’t loudly grumble about poor citizens being poor while making or supporting austerity cuts that will keep them poor. You also can’t complain about giving handouts when we keep bailing out banks and being lenient with corporations, even if you are arguing that they are the job creators. This argument has fallen flat, particularly because if corporations really were job creators, more people would probably have jobs.

It’s very simple. If you have an issue with something before you begin to criticize people affected by the situation, ask yourself what it is you can do to actually fix it yourself.