Bart Crow review
Bart Crow is a Corpus Christi regular and one of Texas country’s premier musicians. Reporter Marina Cantu gives you a taste of what his performance at Brewer’s Street Ice House was like on PAGE 5.

Giving Tuesday
Features reporter Tina Lentz makes it easy for readers to give a little something back this holiday season. If you are in need of some new traditions and want to feel all warm and fuzzy inside read the full story on PAGE 6.

Human trafficking
Corpus Christi community members gather to tackle the issue of human trafficking at the human trafficking summit last Friday. News reporter Conner Tichota breaks this complex issue down on PAGE 10.

CASA tutors newly certified

by CONNER TICHOTA

This semester, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s very own Center for Academic Student Achievement had their tutoring and mentoring programs certified by the College Reading & Learning Association. This is CASA’s second time CASA has had their programs certified through this particular association. According to Leticia Villarreal, Assistant Director of tutoring and supplemental instruction at CASA, the center was founded in 1994 in an attempt to aid students in achieving academic success. CASA provides several services including tutoring, mentoring, supplemental instruction and the Writing Center. CASA has been previously certified by CRLA for their programs however, due to the expansion and reorganization of the programs, it was time to re-certify. According to Noelle Ballmer, CASA director of supplemental instruction, tutoring and the Writing Center, the number of employed students has increased from 30 to approximately 70 student employees. These numbers is a good indicator of how integral of a part CASA plays on campus, and how much students are taking advantage of the opportunities provided.

“we have so many new aspects to CASA programming,” says Villarreal. “We’ve grown so exponentially [that] all of our areas became specialized. We found it necessary to go back and re-certify. For example, we added the AIM mentoring program. It has its own [required] CRLA certification.”

The College Reading & Learning Association was founded in 1966 and has played a crucial role in developmental education ever since. According to the association’s official website, the goals of this organization are to provide professional development for colleges and to support the best techniques promoting innovative learning among other things. CRLA provides a variety of certification programs for colleges to obtain including a tutoring and a mentoring certification. Both the tutoring and mentoring certificates are also nationally commended by learning organizations including the Association for the Tutoring and Learning Specialist.

See CASA on PAGE 10

Keep moving forward

by ALEXIS DE LEON

Sports editor

They say the average person will underestimate what they can achieve in a day and therefore underestimate what they can achieve over a lifetime. For Islander alumna and now current engineering recruitment & STEM outreach coordinator Korinne Caruso her underestimation came with a doctor’s note.

It was about five years ago inside Academy Sports when Caruso noticed someone wearing a Corpus Christi Roadrunner shirt and decided to look into the organization online.

“They post many race dates on their website,” Caruso said. “I noticed the half marathon over the Harbor Bridge and thought, ‘those people are crazy.’”

Since moving to Corpus Christi to attend Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1996, at only 135 lbs, Caruso noticed the development of allergies, aches, pains and an excessive amount of weight gain. “The Freshman 15 was more like 45 for me,” Caruso said. “I spent 1-2 hours every other day in the gym on machines and all it did was maintain my weight. The fastest I could go on an elliptical was a 12-minute mile. I never saw weight loss and like an idiot I thought I needed to stop eating to procreate.”

After graduation Caruso married the love of her life, a single father and became what she calls an “insta-mom.” Hopes for a child of her own were put on hold due to the challenges and complications for hypothyroid patients who try to procreate.

“My doctors said I should never run but if I wanted to I had to do a lot of strength training on my quads because I had Patellofemoral pain syndrome,” Caruso said.

Patellofemoral pain syndrome (PPFS) is a syndrome characterized by pain or discomfort originating from the contact of the posterior surface of the patella (back of the kneecap) with the femur (thigh bone) during repetitive compression or shearing forces (running or jumping) on the PF joint.

“Doctors talked to me about medication and working out and I decided enough was enough. I had run on an elliptical in the old Texas A&M-Corpus Christi gym, the Glasscock, but never in the outdoors, at least not since I was in grade school,” Caruso said. “I spent 1-2 hours every other day in the gym on machines and all I did was maintain my weight. The fastest I could go on an elliptical was a 12-minute mile. I never saw weight loss and like an idiot I thought I needed to stop eating to procreate.”

After graduation Caruso married the love of her life, a single father and became what she calls an “insta-mom.” Hopes for a child of her own were put on hold due to the challenges and complications for hypothyroid patients who try to procreate.

See HALF MARATHON on PAGE 8

Free Birds
Features reporter Tina Lentz finds the latest animated Thanksgiving feature, “Free Birds” to be for the birds.

Thanksgiving DIY
When hunger pangs arrive this holiday reporter Andrew Liguez staves it off with a Thanksgiving DIY.

Men’s basketball
Islanders wrap up the Holiday Inn tournament with a 72-61 win over UTPA.

INDEX
VIEWPOINTS 3 | ENTERTAINMENT 4 | FEATURES 6 | SPORTS 8 | NEWS 10

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 31

THANKSGIVING ISSUE
ISLAND WAVES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI
11.21.13

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Portraits of foster children were the center focus at the ninth annual “Heart Gallery of South Texas” on Nov. 12. The exhibit was housed in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Antonion E. Garcia Arts & Education Center. The gallery showcased children who are harder to place due to their age or because they are part of a sibling group. It will remain on display until Dec. 12.

A report by Dr. Lee Smee, associate professor in the department of Life and Sciences, was recently published in Dug Dug, an online academic journal. Smee’s research, titled “Intraspecific Variation Influences Natural Settlement of Eastern Oysters” was published in Oecologia, a top ecology journal. Smee’s research aimed to find why larval oysters select where to settle and grow.

Armando Solis, senior Naval science instructor for Flour Bluff Naval Junior ROTC program visited the ROTC Islander Battalion Nov. 14 for the Cadet Leadership Forum. “All of you here today are the next generation of leaders,” said Solis at the forum. “You are amongst great mentors.”

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi alumna Rosa Ena Villareal earned recognition as one of the Top 40 Mass Transit Professionals in the Nation. Villareal is a Master of Public Administration graduate and earned the award for her work as the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority Managing Director of Operations.

Police responded to a Class B theft ranging from $50-$500 in the Dugan Wellness Center at 5:55 p.m. The case is still active.

Police responded to an unauthorized use of vehicle state jail felony at the Center for Instruction at 9:10 p.m. The case is still active.

Police responded to a burglary of habitation, second degree felony at Miramar 800 building at 1:49p.m. The case is still active.

Police responded to a Class C minor in possession of alcohol in Marina Hall at 8:25 p.m. The case is still active.

Police responded to a Class A burglary of vehicle in the Turtle Cove parking lot at 9:37 p.m. The case is still active.

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FIVE CARD DRAW BAND

NOV 23

RUSH TRIBUTE SUBDIVIDED

NOV 27

ROGER CRASDEY CLAYTON GARDNER

NOV 29

SECOND SATURDAY SONG ALONG PATIOS

J.R. CASTILLO WITH THE RAMBLIN' TWINS

DEC 4

JUICY

DEC 5

CLAYTON GARDNER

DEC 6

SPAZMATICS

DEC 11

SUBLINE TRIBECA BAND
Local summit to address human trafficking in Corpus Christi

City organizations and non-profits aim to prevent crime, warn public, raise awareness about prevalence of issue

by CONNER TICHOTA
news reporter

The Del Mar Center for Economic Development will host a Human Trafficking Summit focused on bringing awareness and calling local citizens to action to help prevent the growing crime and provide aid to victims on Nov. 15 at 8:30 a.m.

A topic that can generate controversy, pity, fear and intrigue, one of the main issues surrounding human trafficking is the lack of awareness. The upcoming summit hopes to illuminate Corpus Christi citizens about these issues according to organizers. Carolina Sizemore, a Blue Nation affiliated educator for advocacy and awareness about human trafficking, emphasized the summit’s agenda focuses on bringing awareness and dispelling myths about human trafficking. Blue Nation is a local Corpus Christi operated organization dedicated to aiding human trafficking victims.

State representative, Todd Hunter has advocated against human trafficking and will be in attendance at the summit. There will be several breakout sessions covering a variety of topics including the legislation needed to prevent human trafficking and build shelters for victims. Other topics covered include the medical and housing services offered to victims.

Finally there will be testimonies from an actual human trafficking survivor who will describe her journey and her path to overcoming their ordeal.

Sizemore says that there are many myths and misconceptions about human trafficking.

“People already have biases... on what human trafficking is,” Sizemore said. “People just assume that it is a force and don’t take into account different factors, like coercion.”

Sizemore described human trafficking as a complex system broken up into different branches. There are both cases of international and domestic human trafficking that can involve either the sex trade or the movement of people. It is not strictly women who are abducted and abused, but men as well.

One of the largest misconceptions about human trafficking, according to advocates is that it doesn’t exist in Corpus Christi.

“How can you gain support... if there’s ‘not a problem’?” Sizemore said. “How can you eradicate the problem, if no one knows it exists?”

According to Blue Nation, the southwest border of Texas, including the Gulf Coast region and Corpus Christi, serves as one of the largest points of entry for international human trafficking. Houston acts as the second largest port nationwide.

This phenomenon occurs for several reasons. First, the proximity to the border is a prime location for traffickers to bring in and out state and international traffickers.

Second, the large Hispanic population within the state allows both the traffickers and their victims to blend in with the rest of normal society.

Finally, the greatest factor is due to the fact that many find ways to cross the border without documentation, so that the traffickers slip past law enforcement. These instances of human trafficking hit closer to home than people may imagine.

On Oct. 30, a human trafficking ring was busted in Rockport Texas, a neighboring city to the Island University. KRIS-TV reported Shaoying Qiu, owner of the Q spa, was arrested by law enforcement for aggravated promotion of prostitution.

Evidence was found that a sum of $30,000 to $40,000 was paid by this particular ring to bring female Chinese immigrants into the United States where they were forced into prostitution at these spas. Law enforcement also discovered that this particular ring had ties to spas in Victoria and Houston.

The aims of the summit is to educate the local public about the issues of human trafficking, so that they can then take a more proactive response. There are a variety of ways in which people are becoming involved including students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Yvette Garcia, a senior communication major at the Island University works with Bay Area Fellowship’s Rescue House.

The Rescue House is a short term shelter for women who have been victims of human trafficking and are provided with services until they are transferred to other facilities for rehabilitation.

“Human trafficking is something that is alive and thriving,” said Garcia. “We should be highly aware, especially as close to the border. People transport (victims) out of state and then no one can find them.”

Human trafficking can happen to anyone. For more information regarding human trafficking, ways to prevent the crime and ways to get involved in rescue efforts, please visit blue-nation.org or contact the Bay Area Fellowship Rescue House.

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Human trafficking by the numbers

according to the Polaris Project

200,000 American children are at high risk for trafficking into the sex industry every year

2,515 suspected cases of human trafficking occurred between Jan. 2008 and June 2010

8 in 10 suspected incidents are classified as sex trafficking

1 in 10 suspected incidents are classified as labor trafficking

continued from PAGE 1

Profession, National Association for Developmental Education and the National College Learning Center Association. The purpose of these certifications is to serve as a type of recognition and incentive for tutors and mentors’ success. Furthermore the certifications have helped to set international standards for skills and training requirements for tutors and mentors alike.

The set goals laid forth by CRLA have been of tremendous benefit to the University’s CASA program. According to both Ballmer and Villarreal, the prescribe training programs required by the certification program are intensified, and create stronger tutoring and mentoring programs that only provide the best practices.

The CASA program has recently partnered with Avid, a grant funded state program, and looks forward to offering reading tutoring for students among the other services they offer.

For more information regarding CASA, programs offered, or employment opportunities, please visit them on campus or view their webpage at tamucc.edu.
Islanders men’s basketball blazes to a 72-61 victory against UTPA

by ALEXIS DE LEON

The Islanders men’s basketball does it again with another solid win over University of Texas-Pan American. Junior guard Hameed Ali led four players in double figures with 17 points, Sunday at the American Bank Center as the men went 72-61. The Islanders (2-2) finished the Holiday Inn Downtown Marina Islanders Basketball Tournament with a 2-1 record.

Junior forward Zane Knowles talked on his second double-double of the season, scoring 13 points and snaring 12 rebounds. Freshman forward Jeff Beverly displayed another powerful game with 12 points and two blocks, while sophomore guard Cole Martinez knocked down three triples and scored 11 points in 18 minutes. Junior guard John Knowles demonstrated an all-around strong game for the Islanders with seven points, seven assists, six rebounds and two steals.

Ali was on fire for the Islanders men’s basketball with seven points, part of a 21-6 run around the break that pushed the Islanders to a 24-point advantage. The Californian was just one point off his career high, and added four assists and four rebounds while going 6-for-10 from the field.

The Islanders embarked on an 15-2 run, quickly into the first half plotted by Knowles and Beverly. The Islanders started with 12 of the 15 points in the Islanders rally, with the other three coming on a shot from beyond the arc by sophomore guard Jake Kocher at 13:17. Knowles jumper in the paint pushed the advantage to double digits, 15-6.

UTPA broke the cold snap with a triple from the left wing, but the Islanders could not be shaken and came right back behind a 10-0 run. Junior guard John Knowles and Beverly followed by a fast-break layup for Martinez that came on a no-look feed from Jordan to make it 21-8. The Islanders pushed the lead to as much as 17, 26-13, at the 6:39 mark on a Knowles layup.

But after trimming the lead to 13, UTPA went on a 8-0 run to get back the deficit down to 32-25. Beverly came in with a monster layup inside in the final minute, making it a steaming nine-point advantage, heading to break. Beverly was the start of the decisive rally.

Starting the second half, the Islanders went on an 11-0 run to take the lead, 53-33. With nine minutes on the clock UTPA made a last ditch effort with its biggest rally of the game, putting together a 15-1 run to cut the deficit to just 10, 58-48. The Islanders brushed off their shoulders off, sinking 10 free throws in the final five minutes to serve an 11-point victory.

Catch Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in action Saturday as they travel to San Antonio to make a second scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

What’s Next

Nov 21, 2013 Women’s Basketball Islanders vs. Tennessee State 6:00 PM Nashville, Tenn.

Nov 22, 2013 Women’s Volleyball Islanders vs. TBA Southland Conference Tournament

Nov 23, 2013 Cross Country vs. NCAA Nationals All Day Terre Haute, Ind.

Men’s Basketball Islanders vs. UTSA 2:00 PM San Antonio, Texas

Nov 26, 2013 Men’s Basketball Islanders vs. Central Michigan 7:00 PM American Bank Center

Nov 27, 2013 Women’s Basketball Islanders vs. Texas State 7:00 PM San Marcos, Texas

Today I think I’d like to talk about America’s true favorite pass time—conspiracy theories. Truth be told I never buy into the conspiracy mainly because there really is no point.

If Tupac and Elvish are actually still alter the conspiracy of taking their deaths only helped them (which goes against the definition of what a conspiracy is). While I hold both in high regards on my iMuses I doubt either of them would still be as paramount as they were in their respected eras. Likewise if the government had never assassinated Kennedy or otherwise I wager he would have ended up just like every other president, hated and told to resign. His affair with Marilyn Monroe would have been the catalyst in him becoming the first Bill Clinton.

My thoughts however have nothing to do with pop culture or political conspiracies, but rather the conspiracies of mind control during the commercials. If anything other than the intended message is getting through to you, they are not secretly making you buy things you don’t want or need in fact they aren’t being secretive about the message at all. Unfortunately that is the power of the advertisement on the TV screen.

If anything other than the intended message is getting through to you, then that advertiser has not done their job.

So the next time you watch a team do horrifyingly and think they just want a first round draft pick or your professor hands you back a failing grade and are certain they are all painfully aware upgrades or needs in fact they aren’t being secret about the message at all. Unfortunately that is the power of the advertisement on the TV screen.
They say the average person will underestimate what they can achieve in a day and therefore underestimate what they can achieve in a lifetime. For Islander alumna and now current physical education program coordinator Korinne Caruso her underestimation came with a doctor’s note.

It was about five years ago inside Academy Sports when Caruso noticed someone wearing a Corpus Christi Roadrunner shirt and decided to look into the organization online.

“They post many race dates on their website,” Caruso said. “I noticed the half marathon over the Harbor Bridge and thought, those people are crazy.”

Since moving to Corpus Christi to attend Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1996, at only 115 lbs, Caruso noticed the development of allergies, aches, pains and an excessive amount of weight gain.

“The Freshman 15 was more like 45 for me,” Caruso said. “I saw several doctors before finally being diagnosed with Hypothyroidism. Breathing made me gain weight and no amount of effort was helping.”

Hypothyroidism is a pathological condition in which the thyroid gland produces inadequate quantities of the thyroid hormones thyroidine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). The condition can arise from injury caused to the hypothalamus gland or the anterior pituitary gland, which may greatly injure the hypothalamus.

“I missed my own baby shower. It went from on lookers, to the finish line in order to catch my firstborn. It was so heartwarming to see from the baby stroller, despite questioning looks from onlookers, to the finish line in order to catch my firstborn. It was so heartwarming to see it,” Caruso said. “It was my first run. I stayed for the awards ceremony and rocked the moon-shaped baby. I refused to let the baby stroller take away my sense of happiness that filled her body as she ran over that bridge all thoughts disappeared,” Caruso said.

Caruso says the hardest part about being active is making time for it. She finds herself teaching and adjusting her workouts appropriately, becoming what she calls a “Runner.”

“I never joined the Corpus Christi Road Runners because I thought no way am I like them,” Caruso said. “They are elite runners. I thought I would not fit in but I noticed that they treat all of my races. Some performed better than I did and some didn’t. I joined the fun. It was still people having fun. There was this ‘Really, you run?’ kind of look. Runners come from all over the world and I didn’t tell them about the baby stroller. They just thought that’s what life is about. Runners because I thought no way am I like them,” Caruso said.

“Respect everyone that keeps moving forward no matter what the pace. It does not hurt to finish last because there are many that never even started.”

Caruso recently started a local Women's Running Community in Corpus Christi built off of www.womenrunningcommunity.com. She hopes to give support to community members like herself who are running despite life’s obstacles.

“Everyone can become a runner as long as you have a love for running. A little support can go a long way,” Caruso said.

“Respect everyone that keeps moving forward no matter what the pace. It does not hurt to finish last because there are many that never even started. When you decide to not workout remember it is worth the pain and hard work.”

Korinne Caruso before Harbor Half Marathon (on left) and moments after Harbor Half Marathon (on right)
Thanksgiving is often equated with good food, family, and good times, but this year you might want to also give back by volunteering for a local charity in your community or even by donating funds to global missions. It might be surprising to find out that there is actually a specific day made just for giving. In the wake of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, both holiday shopping days revolving around consumerism, Giving Tuesday (Dec. 3) is all about giving back.

“That's the idea: to get people excited about giving in the same way they might get excited about buying a big-screen TV at a bargain price,” stated the npr.org website. According to givingtuesday.org, “In the same way that Thanksgiving is often equated with good food, family, and good times, but this year you might want to also give back by volunteering for a local charity in your community or even by donating funds to global missions.

For those interested in giving back after Thanksgiving, there are local as well as global opportunities to do so. Some may be as simple as donating to the local food bank.

Giving is nostalgic because all of my relatives used to come over for Thanksgiving when I was young,” said Jarrettoby Lewis, an English major, “so I have good memories from that.”

A family sitting around a table laden with food is not something new, but a lot of families can't even afford regular everyday meals, much less a Thanksgiving dinner. Add some relatives and high expectations of the holiday, and it can be hard to pull it off.

One way you can help these families is by donating to your local food bank.

According to foodbankcc.com, “Since 1982, the Food Bank of Corpus Christi has been fighting hunger in the Coastal Bend by providing food and personal care products to various charity and service agencies.”

Thanksgiving is also a time when many people reflect on the things they are thankful for; but there are those who are less fortunate. Sometimes it is poverty that affects them; other times it is a natural disaster.

In light of recent events, you might want to donate to those who are suffering in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan. Two charities that are working on helping those in need in the Philippines are Project Hope and Unicef.

Donations according to projecthope.org website, “Help ship emergency medicine and medical supplies for survivors left without shelter, safe water or sanitation, leaving them vulnerable to deadly diseases in the aftermath of this tragedy.”

Unicef takes a different approach than Project Hope. According to the unicefusa.org website they focus on reaching out to affected children in impoverished countries or those affected by natural disasters, such as the typhoon.

steps:
1. Blow up one balloon to the size of a cooked turkey's torso, and blow up the other 2 balloons to the size of a turkey leg. Tape the three pieces together to create a turkeysketch figure. Attach the 2 sticks to the legs to make the bone part. At the end you should see the resemblance of a turkey.
2. Start to make the sticky water substance by combining the glue and water in a bowl of sorts.
3. Place the newspaper in the sticky water and begin making the outer shell of the turkey, after you have acceptably made the shell let it dry for a few hours or you may wish to take the chance and blow dry it while not messing it up.
4. Once it has dried make another layer around the first and do the drying process again.
5. Once the whole turkey has dried you can begin to pain the outside a golden brown so that it may resemble the delicious turkey you will be making on Thanksgiving Day.
6. Once you have completed your master piece you may wish to add the extra stuff of green lettuce made by leafy strands of new paper colored green. Once the green leafs are made you can place the fake turkey into the pan and viola your masterpiece is DONE!

You can use this fake turkey however you wish, you may utilize it as a centerpiece. You can put it outside so the dog can go after it, you can strategically place it in your mean neighbor's room to freak them out, and you could even just take a picture for Facebook to feel accomplished. In the end remember that thanksgiving is all about the giving and turkey. Most importantly the turkey.
The second annual ‘Thanksgiving on Campus’ offers students a chance to have a Thanksgiving even away from home

by KATLEHN RAINBREZ
features editor

The second annual Thanksgiving on Campus will be taking place next week. Created by Vasha Bhatari, resident adviser for Camden Miramar, Thanksgiving on Campus allows students who would like to have the chance to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal and celebrate the holiday.

The event originally started last year, after Bhatari had an idea. Wanting to offer an alternative for the students who were unable to go home for Thanksgiving, Bhatari came up with Thanksgiving on Campus.

Originally from Indiana, Bhatari said Thanksgiving isn’t even part of her culture, she didn’t mind volunteering to stay behind to watch the office while the other RAs went home. It was then that this finance major began noticing the number of students who were planning on staying on campus for the holiday.

“Even though it was Thanksgiving weekend, the [Camden Miramar] office still had to be open,” Bhatari said. “To me, it’s not a big deal if I don’t get a weekend off but it’s less fun for the weekend, and I began to notice that residents who just couldn’t go home.”

And so, coming up with the idea to bring Thanksgiving to campus, Bhatari began enlisting the help of other resident advisors, other Camden Miramar staff and even got people from the community to volunteer money and food. “I remember there was this guy who was from New York, and it was too expensive for him to buy a plane ticket just for a weekend,” Bhatari said. “Then in another apartment, there were these two girls, they were from Houston, but they couldn’t go home because they had a lot of papers. And of course, there are a lot of international students, so it was like, you know what, let’s just bring Thanksgiving to campus.”

Originally prepared for just 30 people, Bhatari said over 50 people showed up to the event. Luckily, Bhatari and the other volunteers had prepared extra food. “I tallied up to a couple of my friends in the community, from churches, and from different groups, asked for their donations, and then they were able to provide us with Thanksgiving food,” Bhatari said.

In addition to feeding students, Bhatari also got some feedback from the community to come out and tell the story about the history of Thanksgiving, and even had a little activity for the students to do. This year, Bhatari is planning for at least 60 students, and says there will also be another telling on the history of Thanksgiving, as well as another activity for students to do.

“We’re going to have ham, turkey, and typical sides: green bean casserole, maybe rice casserole, potato...” Bhatari said. “We’re also going to be giving out small prizes and have this activity where students can trace their hand to make leaves, and then they can write the five things they’re grateful about. We want to give them the full experience of Thanksgiving so they understand that Thanksgiving is more than just turkey and ‘gobble till you wobble,’ it’s also about counting your blessings.”

Bhatari doesn’t want anyone one to be alone on Thanksgiving, and encourages anyone who will be in town to come out and celebrate.

“It’s hard for anybody, not just students, but anybody in general, when they come to a new place and then they’re not engaged in the place,” said Bhatari. “They don’t have any friends or people they’re close with, and they’re not plugged in, so we’re hoping by doing something like this, especially during a holiday weekend, people will come out and realize that people do care about them.”

Thanksgiving on Campus will take place Thurs., Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the Camden Rec room. The event is free and open to all students. Contact Bhatari at vashabhatari@yahoo.com to RSVP or for more information.

“Please come out and enjoy the food and activity and meet new people. It’s kind of half educating and social, but it’s also about bringing people back to the community. Local students will meet international students, and vice versa,” Bhatari said.

MAKING NEW THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

by MARINA CANTU
entertainment reporter

Turkey day is right around the corner and, for some staying in Corpus Christi this holiday, here are some ways to start a new tradition for Thanksgiving.

Every year families all over gather around a dinner table and eat down thousands of calories of turkey, stuffing, and all other items found on a Thanksgiving table but some families are busy being on call for the weekend, and I began to notice that residents who just couldn’t go home.”

If you are feeling generous this holiday season and want to give back to others check out he Joe Salem Thanksgiving dinner at the Boys and Girls Club. Make this your new tradition and create a new meaning for Thanksgiving. To get more information on becoming a volunteer contact the Boys and Girls Club at 361-483-2925. If basketball is more your thing then be sure to hit up The Corpus Christi Challenge at the American Bank Center on Nov. 29th until Nov 30th.

According to the American Bank Center’s website, americanbankcenter.com, The Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the arrival of The Corpus Christi Challenge, a NCAA Basketball Invitational to be held Thanksgiving Weekend 2013. The field for the inaugural event includes Texas A&M University, SMU, Virginia, Missouri State, Sam Houston State University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and Loyola University.

Just be warned that ticket prices are a little steep. A weekend pass to The Corpus Christi Challenge is around $100. Friday and Saturday individual passes range from $30 to $55. For more information on The Corpus Christi Challenge check out americanbankcenter.com.

If blues is what makes you happy make sure to check out Joe Bonamassa, a number one Billboard Blues Chart stopper, on Nov. 29 at the American Bank Center’s Selena Auditorium. The show will start at 8 PM, with doors opening at 7 PM. Ticket prices range from $50 to $100.

Also on Nov. 29 Longhornzzz will be putting on their Local Licks, performances by Corpus Christi local hands, starting at 9 P.M. If you dare to attempt the Thanksgiving feast, if you dare to attempt the Thanksgiving feast, HEW will be open from 6a.m. to 2p.m.

Break the mold of the ‘typical’ Thanksgiving:

Every year families all over gather around a dinner table and eat down thousands of calories of turkey, stuffing, and all other items found on a Thanksgiving table but some families are busy being on call for the weekend, and I began to notice that residents who just couldn’t go home.”

If you are feeling generous this holiday season and want to give back to others check out he Joe Salem Thanksgiving dinner at the Boys and Girls Club. Make this your new tradition and create a new meaning for Thanksgiving. To get more information on becoming a volunteer contact the Boys and Girls Club at 361-483-2925. If basketball is more your thing then be sure to hit up The Corpus Christi Challenge at the American Bank Center on Nov. 29th until Nov 30th.
I can definitely say it was a night well spent. I got to see a country star Bart Crow, who I literally only know from hearing songs at Ropers, and also got to check out Brewster Street Ice House for the first time.

First off I am not a huge country music fan, so stick me in a room with a bunch of Bart Crow followers and I am sore thumb. However, being that I’ve lived in Corpus Christi for over three years now and have never been to Brewster Street Ice House under the Harbor Bridge I decided to go check out the show and the venue. I absolutely dig the location under the Harbor Bridge, right next to some random train tracks, and across the street from Hurricane Alley and Whataburger Field. Parking was a little on the sketchy side, but I thought it was cool that you had to cross the train tracks to get there. They have a ginormous back patio that was coincidentally filled with cowboy boot wearing, bling bling camouflage outfitted, Bart Crow fans, and for some reason I was thrilled. I went to go grab my tickets from the Will Call and headed inside.

Not only do they have a huge outdoor patio, but also a gigantic bar inside and outside. I made my way to back where the concert was going on and surprisingly ran into someone I know. I ordered myself some fried pickles and waited patiently for what I expected to be, the deep voiced country star to go on.

The clock struck somewhere between 10:00p.m. to 10:30p.m. and that’s when the man of the hour came on the mic. Everyone, especially, the women went crazy clapping and started two stepping. Before I continue I have to explain that I do not know how to two step for the life of me. I’d probably die if I was held at gun point and asked to two step in order to live. However, I honestly did find his music very moving, and by moving I mean I found myself dancing uncontrollably.

Bart Crow was pretty good looking too and you better believe he could he sing. Everywhere I looked I saw couples with love gleaming in their eyes as they shuffled across the open floor. Everyone was singing along or belting along with Bart. With that being said if I was a huge country music fan I’d definitely be all over that.

For more information of the Bart Crow band check out his page at bartcrowmusic.com. Also if you want to know more about Brewster Street Icehouse you can find them at 1724 N. Tancahua St. or visit their website at brewsterstreet.net.

photo courtesy of BARTCROWMUSIC.COM
BJ's Brewhouse: subpar service, semi-OK food

A second look at Corpus Christi's newest restaurant leaves Island Waves reporter satisfied, but not happy

by ANDREW LIGUEZ
entertainment reporter

So let me start off with my first impression of the brew house, the atmosphere was nice but a hint of apathy, the waiters were tired and hatred everybody that walked in.

The male hostess, as I walked in with my group of friends, gave us a slightly snooty look and tone of pretentious. After being seated our waitress greeted us and was thankfully more cheerful and helpful than the host. The menu of BJ's is huge, but has many repeats of the same types of food. When ordering the waitress was actually helpful in determining the best of types of food and even let my colleague make a special order.

The biggest thing I noticed about BJ's Brewhouse was their water because if you live in corpus then you should know by now that good tasting water is a very hard thing to find here. This is the first time that I actually had good water so that is saying a lot. The wait for the food was little longer than anticipated, but while waiting for our food the waiters were really nice and helpful, and even went to the lengths of apologizing for the long time it took for the food to arrive.

Each of my friends ordered different things. My order was one of the famous pizzas, and the other orders were angel hair pasta, a salad with grilled chicken, and a spinach wrap.

Let's start off with the pizza, I ordered a simple mozzarella pizza with beef on top. The pizza was actually really good as their reputation goes, while it may have been thin I did enjoy the taste of the cheese.

My accompanist had this to say about her angel hair pasta, "It tasted really good, I just feel that the garlic bread that was given with the pasta was stale. The pasta itself was kind of overcooked but the sauce made up for it." I agree with her.

I asked the waitress why to say about his meal, "The salad was dry, when I asked for ranch they said that they do not have ranch, which I thought to be weird. Like how do they run out of ranch?"

The last friend gave a more happily review of her meal of a spinach wrap. "The warp was delicious, the whole ensemble just came together and made it a wonderful meal!"

When brought the bill, I was actually surprised at how cheap it was. The whole meal was only $10.58 for an 11 inch pizza. My company also had good totals for their meals, as the most for theirs was around $12. My company also had good totals for their meals, as the most for theirs was around $12.

The desert was also good as we had a cookie with vanilla bean ice cream on the top. The ice cream was good, but the cookie was amazing.

Atmosphere: ★★★☆☆
Food: ★★★☆☆
Service: ★★★☆☆
Overall: ★★★☆☆

A TURKEY OF A FILM

Free Birds should stay off your menu this Thanksgiving

by TINA LENTZ
features reporter

Many movies have dealt with time travel, but the movie "Free Birds" may be the first one to deal with it through the perspective of turkeys. Two turkeys, Reggie (Owen Wilson) and Jake (Woody Harrelson), are the main characters of the film, and are on a mission to go back in time and take turkeys off the menu of the first Thanksgiving dinner.

This plan is seen as a means to free all turkeys from death at future Thanksgiving dinners; however, characters' motivations, mainly Reggie's, causes problems for the rest of the characters.

This movie, as far as movies go, has a pretty standard plot. The main characters get thrust into a role they neither expected nor wanted, create selfish drama between other characters and then ultimately fail or give up before miraculously finding a solution to all their problems.

Along with the plot, or lack thereof, the movie has little redeeming qualities. The movie is Reel FX Creative Studio's first animated feature film, but as far as visuals go it's nothing special.

In the beginning of the movie, Reggie is watching a soap opera named "El Solo Lobo." The art style of that fake show was more visually interesting than "Free Birds" at its best moments. If a fake show is making it better would be to skip the turkeys and go straight to "El Solo Lobo."

The premise however, was clever. The characters were likable enough, but there just wasn't enough there to merit spending $7.75. I give this movie 2 stars out of 5, for trying. My only suggestion for making it better would be to skip the turkeys and go straight to "El Solo Lobo."

In the end, Reggie and Jake completed their mission; these turkeys are definitely off the menu for this Thanksgiving.

Significant historical figures were reduced to blubbing idiots, which some might find offensive.

The only thing that could have redeemed this movie was the humor. There were some genuine laughs along the way, but almost all of them were concentrated in the first half of the movie.

With this kind of movie it's almost essential to keep the laughter rolling, and the lack of humor at the end was kind of disappointing.

The movie is set up to be a buddy film, which is interesting, since there wasn't really any chemistry between the two main characters. There wasn't really any chemistry between the main character and his love interest for that matter.

For almost two hours, you're waiting for genuine feelings to shine through, but be prepared to be disappointed by this clichéd and sad attempt at a feel-good movie. I watched this movie, and like the characters, I found myself wanting to change the past. I wanted to go back in time and keep myself from watching this movie.

The premise however, was clever. The characters were likable enough, but there just wasn't enough there to merit spending $7.75. I give this movie 2 stars out of 5, for trying. My only suggestion for making it better would be to skip the turkeys and go straight to "El Solo Lobo."

In the end, Reggie and Jake completed their mission; these turkeys are definitely off the menu for this Thanksgiving.

| Service: | ★★★☆☆ |
| Food: | ★★★☆☆ |
| Atmosphere: | ★★★☆☆ |
| Overall: | ★★★☆☆ |
<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: 100@100</h3>
    <p>WHEN: Nov. 21 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Nov. 22 noon to 6 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Islander Art Gallery, 4024 Weber Road, Hamlin Shopping Center</p>
    <p>WHY: "100@100" will celebrate works of all genres including two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and mixed media. All works will be sold for $100 or less. Artists will receive 60 percent of each sale. The remaining 40 percent will support the Visiting Artist Program. For more information call the Department of Art at 825-3752.</p>
  </div>
</div>

<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Symphonic Winds Concert "Rememberances and Tributes"</h3>
    <p>WHEN: 7:30 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Performing Arts Center</p>
    <p>WHY: The Concert Band selections include "Simple Gifts," a beautiful suite of Shaker tunes by Frank Ticheli. The band also pays tribute to Benjamin Britten, who was born 100 years ago, by performing his virtuoso "Courtly Dances" from the opera "Gloriana." For more information call 825-5523.</p>
  </div>
</div>

<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Recreational Sports will present "Theophilus North"</h3>
    <p>WHEN: Nov. 19-23, at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Wilson Theatre in the Center for the Arts</p>
    <p>WHY: From Off-Broadway, comes this astonishing charmer of a play, based upon the semi-autobiographical final work of three-time Pulitzer Prize–winning icon of American letters, Thornton Wilder. Set in the tiny resort town of Newport, R.I., during the height of the Jazz Age in summer 1926, "Theophilus North" follows the exploits of the title character as he searches for adventure and his place in the world. Tickets are $10 for adults, $6.50 for students, and $5 for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students with a valid SandDollar$ ID. For more information call 825-3756.</p>
  </div>
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<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Southland Conference Volleyball Tournament</h3>
    <p>WHEN: Nov. 22–24</p>
    <p>WHERE: Dugan Wellness Center</p>
    <p>WHY: All-session tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for youth. To purchase tickets, call 825-2255 or go to goslanders.com.</p>
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<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: The Pollution Prevention Partnership at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi conduct free emissions testing</h3>
    <p>WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Corpus Christi Water Department Holly Road Station, 2726 Holly Road</p>
    <p>WHY: Funds are currently available that enable the PPP to provide those who qualify with up to $500 in repair vouchers if their vehicles are found to be polluting and meet their program guidelines. For more information call Christina Cisneros-Guzman at 825-3070.</p>
  </div>
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<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Recreational Sports will present the Turkey Trot</h3>
    <p>WHEN: 5 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Hike and Bike Trail</p>
    <p>WHY: Registration fee is one non-perishable food item to benefit the Corpus Christi Food Bank. Registration will be adjacent to the Hammerhead parking lot beginning at 4 p.m. the day of the event. For more information, call 825-2454.</p>
  </div>
</div>

<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: The Department of Music at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi present the Lichtenstein String Quartet Concert</h3>
    <p>WHEN: 7:30 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Performing Arts Center</p>
    <p>WHY: Registration fee is one non-perishable food item to benefit the Corpus Christi Food Bank. Registration will be adjacent to the Hammerhead parking lot beginning at 4 p.m. the day of the event. For more information, call 825-2454.</p>
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</div>

<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: The Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will present "Theophilus North"</h3>
    <p>WHEN: Nov. 19-23, at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Wilson Theatre in the Center for the Arts</p>
    <p>WHY: From Off-Broadway, comes this astonishing charmer of a play, based upon the semi-autobiographical final work of three-time Pulitzer Prize–winning icon of American letters, Thornton Wilder. Set in the tiny resort town of Newport, R.I., during the height of the Jazz Age in summer 1926, "Theophilus North" follows the exploits of the title character as he searches for adventure and his place in the world. Tickets are $10 for adults, $6.50 for students, and $5 for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students with a valid SandDollar$ ID. For more information call 825-3756.</p>
  </div>
</div>

<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Coastal Bend Community Foundation will present "Strings Around the World: From Beyond the Great Wall" and hold a Chinese folk music master class</h3>
    <p>WHEN: 5:30–6:15 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Art Museum of South Texas</p>
    <p>WHY: "Strings Around the World" will feature a master class with Dr. Gary Wang from 5:30–6:15 p.m., followed by a concert featuring the Chinese Orchestra of San Antonio at 7 p.m. at the Art Museum of South Texas. The master class will explore Chinese folk music brought to the western world. To sign up for the master class, email Dr. Brad Shope or Dr. Carrie Pierce at carrie.pierce@tamucc.edu. The master class is free and open to the public. For more information, call 825-3756.</p>
  </div>
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<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi "Corpus Plurals: Art Faculty Exhibit"</h3>
    <p>WHEN: Through Dec. 29</p>
    <p>WHERE: Art Museum of South Texas</p>
    <p>WHY: Come hear wonderful Christmas and traditional music performed by musicians of our University's Music Department. Help us kick off the holiday season by donating an unwrapped toy in exchange for admission into the concert. For more information, contact the Music Department at 825-5523.</p>
  </div>
</div>

<div class="calendar-event">
  <div class="event-info">
    <h3>WHAT: Islanders men's basketball team will take on the Central Michigan Flying C's</h3>
    <p>WHEN: 7 p.m.</p>
    <p>WHERE: Stripes Court at the American Bank Center</p>
    <p>WHY: Tickets start at $8. Students get in free with a SandDollars ID. To purchase tickets to the game, call 825-255. For more information go to goslanders.com.</p>
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Employed, hungry for the holidays

Employers tell their workers at Wal-Mart and other large chain stores to turn to charity, second jobs to get by

by Kathleen Ramirez

It's Thanksgiving and for some of us will either be going home to families where awkward questions about body piercings and other life choices will be asked. Politics will be discussed and someone will end up throwing a chair at somebody else in their direction. While that last bit may be unique to my own family, the point is that Thanksgiving rituals will be parataked, and unfortunately, one of these includes Black Friday shopping.

Profits made in the godforsaken retail holiday that takes place after an already atrocious commemoration of the genocide of millions of native people is obviously not enough for some companies like Wal-Mart.

Besides the fact that they're probably not letting any of their workers off for the holiday to spend time with family nor are they paying them more for dealing with unruly hoards of people trying to earn a deal of some sort, Wal-Mart has managed to insult their employees again.

To top off the fact that Wal-Mart has had a track record for underpaying workers and making it so that most workers have to go on some sort of government social program to help offset the fact that their wages are so small, workers somehow keep making themselves known as enemies of working class folks.

According to Alan Grayson, a Florida congressman, the largest group of Medicaid recipients are Wal-Mart employees. They are also the largest group on food assistance programs.

Besides the fact that corporations get more tax breaks than actual people, companies like Wal-Mart that have only done splendidly since the recession and are actually costing tax-payers money by having their workers so low that they need to take part in social safety nets.

While that's exactly what social safety nets are for; we should be ashamed ourselves long is that people who are employed still require help. The answer is simple; minimum wages are far too low.

Instead of addressing this concern, Wal-Mart has only managed to be concern-trolling the workers.

Recently the CEO of the company has decided to blame the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare for low sales. The company says that Americans are currently so worried about the fact that they will soon have to pay for insurance, they are cutting back on their purchases. In Canton, Ohio, managers in a Wal-Mart decided to hold a canned food drive for their associates in that store who needed assistance during the holidays.

You couldn't be more insulting to workers. The head of the largest retailer in the country manages to not only write about the fact that profits are low, but then blame is placed on one of the latest, if not failed attempt, to try and get people health care, which is something his own company has denied to its employees.

Wal-Mart is not the only offensive super company that is trying to absolve themselves of responsibilities that ensure their workers are getting fed. McDonalds was under some fire this summer when they posted a budget calculator to their website for employees to use.

On the calculator, it was apparent that the only way workers could actually make ends meet was if they picked up a second job. Of course, the company suggested this instead of doing the much more obvious thing which is pay their employees a living wage.

Instead of looking at the reason why employers might need help during the holidays, major corporation manage to turn the responsibility from themselves to other working class folks who probably also need just as much help.

We all know what the effect the recession has had on people. With inflation and austerity measures, people only need help right now. But instead of turning to charity, which does serve a purpose, more permanent or long lasting solutions would be giving workers a living wage so that we don't need canned food drives for people who are employed full or even part time.

Recently a New York City census report found that nationally 44 percent of homeless people have jobs. If having a job doesn’t mean an end to economic hardships as extreme as being without a roof over head, food on the table or being scared to get sick because of costs, then it displays a very sick part of our society.

We need to start asking why companies are shirking responsibilities and why people who can’t afford to carry the burden are being dumped on again. It’s something to contemplate while those of us who are lucky enough to have food on the table dig in over the holidays.

TOP RIGHT: Promotional material for a documentary which takes a look at Wal-Mart’s business practices. The company has been criticized for unethical business practices and is currently receiving criticism for costing taxpayers money by forcing their employees to go on government assistance to make ends meet. BOTTOM RIGHT: A photo of a sign at a Wal-Mart in Canton, Ohio where a food drive for associates is being held. The retail giant has publicly argued against the Affordable Care Act for low sales. Many critics of the company argue that employees wages should be raised significantly.

about island waves

The Island Waves is a student produced publication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The newspaper is printed weekly, except during summer sessions.

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Any student or Univeristy employee may submit material for publication consideration. To become a contributor, email or call the Island Waves editor.