

THE SKIFF



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TO RAISE MONEY
FOR CHARITY

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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PHOTO BY JD PELLIS

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CAMPUS NEWS

Reservations at TCU Recreation Center in high demand due to pandemic guidelines

By KATHERINE GRIFFITH
LINE EDITOR, TCU360

With limited capacity at the University Recreation Center, reservations are hard to come by.

The rec center is operating at a capacity of 350 people per time block, and students can make reservations up to three days in advance.

Some students have found getting a reservation difficult.

“I liked it last semester when there were actually spots,” said Nick Sangalis, a junior finance major at TCU.

Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness Promotion Jay Iorizzo said at the beginning of the fall semester that students could make their facility reservations up to a week in advance. However, the sign-up window is now limited to three days in advance in an effort to reduce no-shows and allow more students to sign up.

“People were making



PHOTO BY ESAU RODRIGUEZ OLVERA

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, stuents must make reservations to use the University Recreation Center.

reservations further in advance than their schedules allowed them to fit their workouts into their schedule,” Iorizzo said. “By decreasing [the reservation period] we did see a decrease in the number of no-shows.”

Part of the issue, Iorizzo said, is that there has been a steady 30% no-show rate since they made the switch.

The fastest time blocks

to fill up are 3 to 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., respectively, leaving many students forced to reserve a 6 to 9 a.m. or 8 to 11 p.m. slot, or to skip the gym altogether.

“If the time I wanted [to work out] was full, I would probably just take the day off, because the slots tend to not open back up,” said Xavier Lopez, sophomore economics major.

People who cannot fulfill their reservations often don’t cancel them.

“As Frogs, we can do our part, and if you have a reservation, obviously keep that reservation, and if you don’t have a reservation, try and make one as people cancel their reservations,” said Iorizzo.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU.COM

This screen grab from mycampusrec.tcu.edu shows upcoming availabilities at the University Recreation Center.

CAMPUS NEWS

TCU students launch hat company to raise money for charity

By RYANN BOOTH
LINE EDITOR, TCU360

Two TCU sophomores started a hat company and are donating a portion of the proceeds to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Bryn Carden, sophomore finance and supply chain management double major, and Francesca Jabbour, sophomore business major, launched

BF Hats on Feb. 1. Carden and Jabbour created the company hoping to gain hands-on experience in the business world and raise funds for philanthropy, which is a passion for both of them.

“We decided to start designing hats because they are fun, stylish, universal and wearable for any occasion,” said Jabbour. “Throwing a hat on makes you look

more put together and we wanted to use our passion for style to give back to the community.”

BF Hats had more than 100 orders within the first three days of launching its website. The pair was shocked to see they received multiple orders from their hometowns and the TCU community, as well as orders from across the country.

“We have never

felt so much love and support from the TCU community,” said Carden. “Our friends and family have been amazing by modeling for our website, supporting us financially and providing us with a lot of emotional support.”

Carden and Jabbour said it was important to them that they used their business platform to give back to the community.

They want the proceeds to contribute toward a greater good, rather than keeping the revenue for themselves, they said.

“St. Jude’s is the backbone of our company,” said Carden. “From a young age, I would follow my mom to work and see the children in the hospitals struggling through treatment, so this philanthropy has always had a special place in my heart.”

The website features brightly colored trucker



PHOTO BY RYANN BOOTH

Bryn Carden (left) and Francesca Jabbour (right) pose in front of the Neeley School of Business at TCU with the products they launched.

hats with different combinations of colors and patches. Nine different hats are available for purchase on their website, but custom orders are available upon request.


“Being a full-time college student and a business owner has taught me to manage my time more effectively,” said Jabbour. “Even though it might be tough to balance right now, I know that this experience

and the lessons it is teaching me will be worth it in the long run.”

Carden and Jabbour hope to launch another line before spring recess so students are able to take their BF Hats wherever they go. They also hope to launch a sorority and fraternity line sometime in the near future, as they are both involved in the Greek community at TCU.


BF HATS

BRYN AND FRAN HATS




Simply Smile
\$20.00

Add to Cart




Hot Leathers
\$20.00

Add to Cart



I Love The USA
\$20.00

Add to Cart



All You Need Is Love
\$20.00

Add to Cart

PHOTO COURTESY OF BFHATS.COM

A look at some of the hats available from BF Hats.

Varsity’s liquor license suspended after breaking COVID-19 guidelines

By MARISSA STACY
MANAGING EDITOR, TCU360

Varsity Tavern had its liquor license suspended for 30 days after breaking social distancing guidelines last week.

An emergency order issued by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) said that minimum health requirements were not being met “on or about” Feb. 4 at Varsity.

“Permittee failed to operate its business in

accordance with social distancing requirements and minimum standard health protocols recommended by Department of State Health Services,” the order stated.

The suspension is effective immediately.

Both employees and patrons were seen not wearing face coverings, according to the order.

The findings went against Governor Gregg Abbott’s executive orders requiring that people

wear a face mask while in a commercial entity and that restaurants have less than 51% of their sales coming from alcoholic beverages. Patrons must also be eating or drinking while sitting.

TABC determined “that the continued operation of permittee’s business would constitute a continuing threat to the public welfare.”

There have now been 198,635 COVID-19 cases in Tarrant County, according to the

Tarrant County Health Department’s website. Of those cases, 96,684 cases have been located in Fort Worth.

One other business in DFW also had their liquor license suspended but TBAC could not release its name since the order has not yet been served.

Varsity Tavern has not commented on the current suspension.



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

Varsity Tavern’s liquor license has been suspended for 30 days.

CAMPUS NEWS

Icy conditions caused havoc throughout campus

By TCU360 STAFF

The freezing temperatures gripping North Texas prompted TCU to close the campus last week.

Fort Worth National Weather Service meteorologist Lamont Bain said this cold weather is a rare occurrence.

TCU has also started a webpage to track campus buildings that are under repairs from the storm.

The western section of the Mary Coats Burnett Library is closed for repair and is not expected to be fixed until April. Plans are being made to make books and other materials available, according to the university.

The music and media library, which includes over 20,000 CD's, LP's, DVD's and VHS tapes, was among the sections that have been impacted.

Some library staff have posted on social media that there is flooding in parts of the building.

All residence halls have had their water turned on after some lost it Friday.

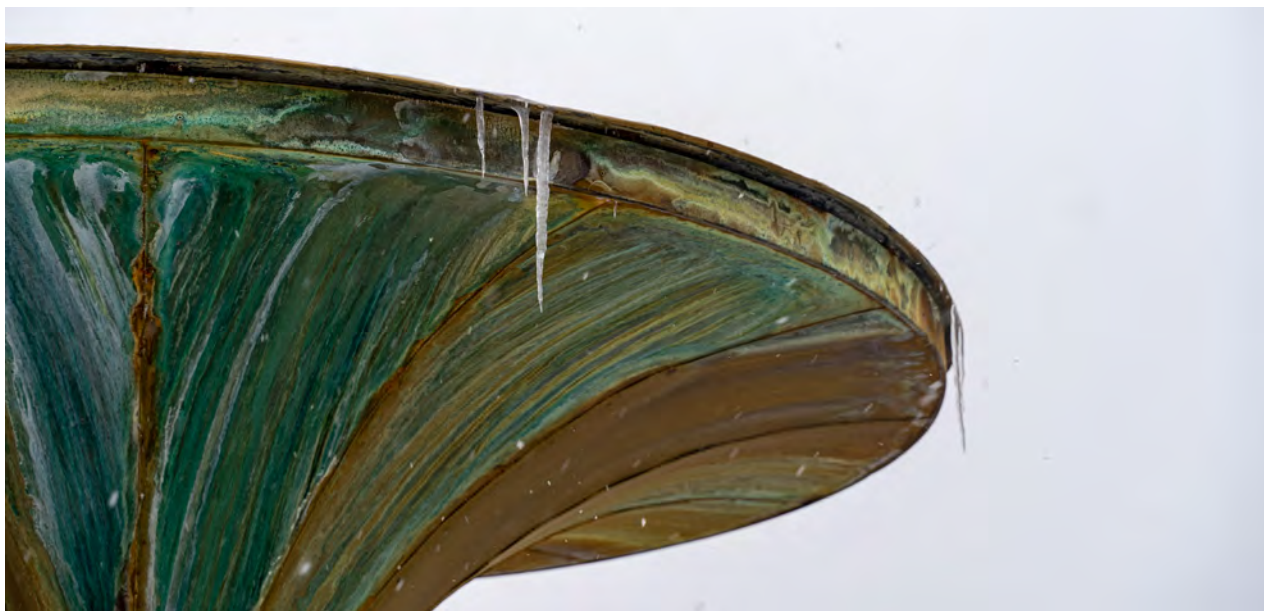


PHOTO BY JD PELLIS

Icicles form on Frog Fountain as the record breaking storm reaches its peak on Feb. 14. Dubbed #snowmageddon2021 on social media, the winter storm dumps several inches of snow over the span of nearly a week.

Campus reopened

The TCU campus re-opened Saturday as temperatures began to climb above freezing.

In-person learning also began again on Monday, with some classes having to move locations due to ongoing repairs from the winter storm.

Dining will continue limited hours through the weekend. Market Square in the BLUU and Caliente in the King Family Commons building will open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



PHOTO BY ESAU RODRIGUEZ OLVERA

The Mary Coats Burnett Library experienced flooding in parts of the building following the winter storm.

Cancelling class

TCU student Jacob Makowecki, a junior accounting major, said though the weather was very cold, it was convenient that many classes are online.

However, the unprecedented winter storm that left much of the state huddled inside from the cold – some in homes without power – prompted TCU to cancel classes through the end of last week.

Many off-campus students spent parts of the week searching for electricity and warmth after the Texas power grid was unable to keep up with demand.

Savannah Bowman, senior early childhood

education major, initially lost power Sunday morning and then did not receive power until Tuesday at 2 p.m. The power went out again at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and came back on around 4 a.m. on Wednesday.

“I did a lot of couch hopping and stressing out,” Bowman said.

Michael Russel, Dean of Campus Life, e-mailed students, giving them the option to spend the night in the campus recreation center.

While there are not any beds, Russel wrote they had “heat, shower facilities and WiFi internet.”

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“I know for most of my friends and I, our classes are mostly online so we do not need to leave our houses much.”Basically there’s no such thing as snow days anymore, because everything can be put online.”

-JACOB MAKOWECKI,
JUNIOR ACCOUNTING MAJOR



PHOTO BY JD PELLIS
A group of students walk through the commons during a campus white out on Feb. 14. In front of the BLUU, students etched hearts and words of affirmation in the snow.

The water break

Water was turned off to some TCU residence halls and buildings the morning of Feb. 19 to repair a main water line leak, the university announced.

The leak occurred between Sadler Hall and Mabee Hall, which is part of the Tom Brown apartments. Water was turned off between approximately 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Tom Brown and Pete Wright residential community buildings were the primary residences affected, with the Commons and Mabee, Herndon, Walker, Britain, Mullins & Fish Halls all losing water.

Clark Hall also lost water.

Residents impacted by the loss of water used the restrooms and showers at the Recreation Center.

Other on-campus buildings, including Erma Lowe Hall, Mary Couets Burnett Library and Winton-Scott Hall, also lost water. All non-resident buildings were closed.



PHOTO BY TCU360 STAFF
A group of students keeps warm in the Rec center during the winter storm.



PHOTO BY JD PELLIS
A TCU student walks her dog in snowy weather outside the Neely School of Business on Feb. 14. Dogs and students roam the campus despite most academic buildings being closed.



PHOTO BY LEAH BOLLING
Students gathered in the Commons for a snowball fight.



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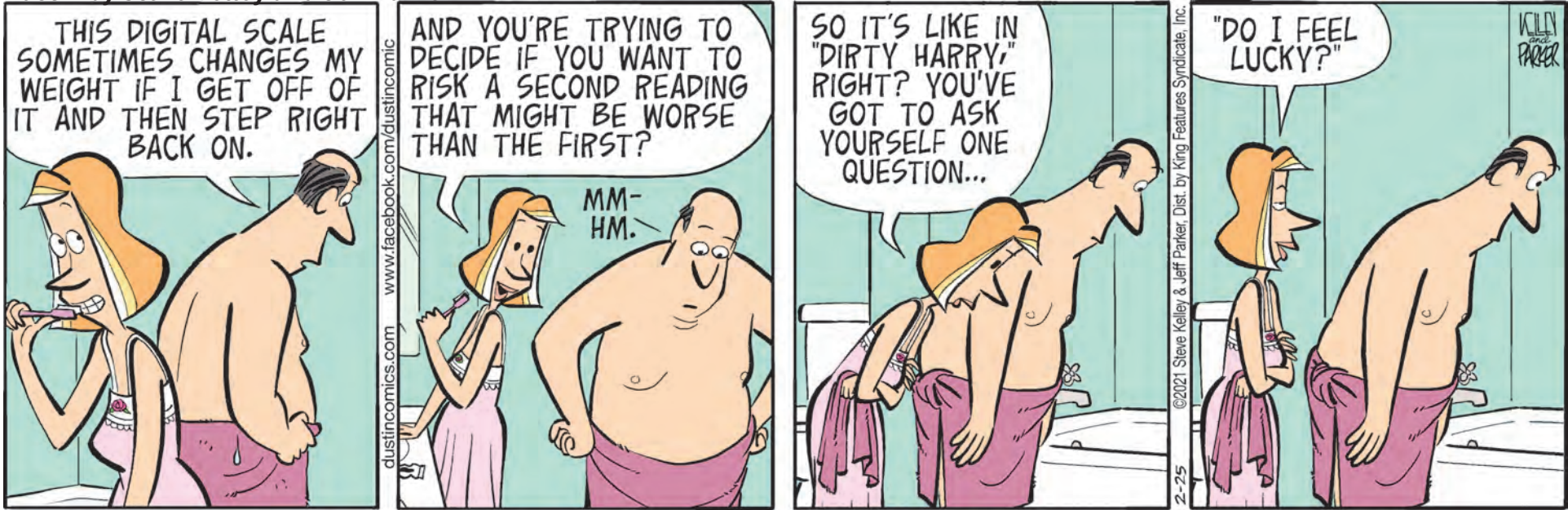
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Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Horoscope

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Today encourages you to splurge. Do enjoy some special goodies or luxuries in moderation, but don't go to extremes. You'll realize that there is so much to appreciate and be thankful for. Tonight: Catch up with an old lover.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Work out anger issues with family members. Compromise is the solution to domestic conflict. Patiently work out differences and make much needed repairs. Tonight: A long and arduous family dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Relationships with siblings and neighbors can be

demanding. Be patient. As the day ends, facts come to light. You'll be glad that you were understanding and tolerant. Tonight: Allow others to grow and explore.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Old financial obligations or debts are becoming more manageable. You are entering a more promising security cycle. Do not repeat patterns and habits that led to previous disappointments. Tonight: Conversations about monetary matters are enlightening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Today is wonderful for study and analysis of all kinds. Social prospects are especially bright. Much can be accomplished. There is a deeper understanding of your own psyche. Tonight: Any confusion will clear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Today is a time for rest and reverie, with the Moon in your sector of solitude and subconscious yearnings. Take note of dreams. Answers come from within. The natural world offers peace and comfort. Tonight: Quiet time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Competitors provide inspiration, but take time to relax and regroup if you start to feel pressured. A mission to make the world a better place has appeal. Tonight: Enjoying a renewed appreciation for your cherished friendships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Career prospects are both interesting and challenging. Combine business with pleasure. Listen carefully to others. Today indicates that valuable information is offered during

social situations and at Zoom meetings. Tonight: Sincerity is the best form of communication.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A deep awareness is present. Heed those inner voices, and you'll be guided toward success. Your energy level will be high, but do quell irritation. Tonight: Friends are willing to give your career a boost.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your priorities and desires are in flux. It will be a wild but interesting day. Decide what it is that you really want and pursue it. There are endings and beginnings in process. Fate intervenes in plans, so be flexible and observant. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Talented and

powerful people are drawing closer to you. The promise of partnerships is very real. You discover much about others and how they feel toward you. Tonight: Keep an open mind and seek the truth, then all will be well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your work is

rewarding and interesting today. You'll be thinking of how best to manage your time and resources. Needed materials and supplies become available. Communication with the very young or the elderly is excellent. Tonight: Be aware of how old habits come into play.



COMMUNITY

Threats facing shark, ray populations worldwide

By **CAMILLA PRICE**

LINE EDITOR, TCU360

While overfishing, habitat loss and climate change are driving species to extinction, many sharks, skates and rays – collectively known as elasmobranchs – face a far greater threat: the media.

Sharks 101: a crash course

Every year, Dr. Chris Lowe, director of the Shark Lab research institute at the University of California, Long Beach, asks his students to list out five words they associate with the word ‘fish’.

“For a fish, I get ‘Dory,’ I get ‘sushi,’ I get ‘salmon,’” said Lowe. “When I say the word ‘shark,’ by and large, somewhere in there is going to be ‘bite,’ there’s going to be ‘scary,’ there’s going to be the word ‘teeth.’”

Many of Lowe’s students picture the distinctive ‘shark-like’

profile of a sand tiger or white shark with its triangular dorsal fin, narrow snout and streamlined profile.

Of the more than 500 species of shark, though, many don’t fit the model.

Striped, spotted, fat, thin, speedy, slow and inhabiting nearly every marine environment, sharks as a group are incredibly diverse - and so are their ecological roles.

“The huge majority of shark species are not apex predators, they’re mid-level predators,” said Dr. R. Dean Grubbs, a marine biologist and member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group. “Sharks actually span a large breadth of the trophic positions in the food webs in marine environments.”

From the bioluminescent dwarf lantern shark that could fit in the palm of your hand to the 20-ton whale shark, sharks fill a variety of niches – but as their

populations crash, ocean food webs could be at risk of collapse.

Elasmobranchs under threat

Worldwide, as many as three-fourths of oceanic sharks and rays are threatened by extinction, primarily due to overfishing.

Every hour, 10,000 sharks are killed.

That’s a “vast underestimate,” according to the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, owing to spotty international regulations and the killing of many sharks and rays as unwanted “bycatch” by other fisheries.

Many sharks and rays are especially vulnerable to overfishing because of their slow life cycles: some species take years or even decades to mature and produce few young in each brood, according to the Smithsonian Institute.

The Greenland shark, the longest-lived vertebrate known to science, matures at 150 years old, while the endangered devil and manta rays produce just one pup every one to three years.

More concerning to conservationists, though, are the gaps in scientific knowledge of shark and ray life cycles.

The IUCN Red List, which categorizes species based on their risk of extinction, has deficiencies in the data of more than 40% of shark and ray species.

“Even today we don’t know the basic biology of the vast majority of shark



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

Sharks actually span a large breadth of the trophic positions in the food webs in marine environments.

species,” said Grubbs. “We don’t know how long it takes them to mature, we don’t know how many pups they have, we don’t know enough about their ecology, their habitat associations, and we may also not know enough about how often and in what quantity they get captured in different fisheries.”

Lack of understanding can impair conservation efforts for the species.

Without the means to manage sharks, skates and rays on a species-specific basis, the U.S. manages them within groups – but, says Grubbs, “Within those groups, you have a wide range of life history.”

Thus, fast-breeding, resilient species are fished at the same rate as species that may take 20 years to mature, with devastating results on less hardy populations.

In short, many sharks, skates and rays are scientific enigmas. Why? The answer lies in public perception.

Officials and researchers from Cape Cod to the Carolinas are looking at responses ranging from the high-tech to the

decidedly low-tech as they deal with a growing great white shark population.

Elasmobranchs and the media

When Lowe plays the association game with his students, one point becomes clear: sharks are feared.

Horror films, mockumentaries and even some mainstream media channels malign sharks as soulless, revenge-seeking killers.

“They’re basically playing off the whole ‘Jaws’ phenomenon where it is very easy to make people scared of sharks,” said Lowe.

Although it may seem harmless, media mischaracterization increases shark mortality.

After Jaws was released in 1975, shark hysteria quickly popularized amateur shark hunting and turned the public against their conservation. Dozens of films and shows have followed, which, even when campy or unrealistic, instill the idea that sharks are dangerous and vicious.

Shark biologists cry

foul: the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation wrote, “The word ‘shark’ almost invariably raises sinister, alarming images in the minds of most people. The average shark is neither menacing nor malevolent.”

Most species pose no threat to people, and even sharks capable of harming humans prefer more natural prey.

Chances are higher of winning the lottery or being killed by cows than bitten by a shark, according to the International Shark Attack File.

“I tell all my students, ‘Look, a shark is just another fish,’” Lowe said.

However, media misinformation persists in the public consciousness, causing a lack of public support and funding for vital elasmobranch research.

While sharks are generally misunderstood, skates and rays face critical threats to their survival - but are often overlooked.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

Replica of the great white shark was used in the movie "Jaws".