

# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Chess Grandmaster Guillermo Vazquez competed with the chess team on March 16 where they won the U.S. Collegiate Rapid Chess Championship in Saint Louis, Missouri.

## Chess team prepares for championship

**Jessica Mendez**  
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Chess Team continues to rack up trophies as it prepares to defend the title of U.S. college team chess champion against Webster University, UT Dallas and Harvard University.

The President's Cup, also known as the Final Four of College Chess, will take place on April 6 and 7 in New York City. Grandmasters Kamil Dragun, Vladimir Belous, Andrey Stukopin, Hovhannes Gabuzyan and international master Guillermo Vazquez will represent UTRGV.

"We have qualified to the Final Four this year, so we are among [the] top four universities in the country," UTRGV Chess Coach Bartek Maciejka said. "That's a fantastic achievement already. I believe we have chances to defend the title, though we are not the favorites. The favorites are the team of Webster. I believe though, we are perhaps the only team that can potentially destroy their moods."

**"I believe we have chances to defend the title, though we are not the favorites."**

**Bartek Maciejka**  
Chess Coach

On March 16, the team won the U.S. Collegiate Rapid Chess Championship, which took place in Saint Louis, Missouri. Belous and Dragun won first and second place, respectively.

Dragun said although he was a few points ahead of his teammate, Belous managed to take first place.

"After five rounds, I was five out of five," Dragun said. "Vladimir was four and a half, and we couldn't play against each other because this was, like, the rule for the tournament. Vladimir won last round and I unfortunately lost. So, he took first place, but I was

See **CHESS**, Page 10

# MORE TUITION

## Texas bills may change college residency status for undocumented students

**Eric Montoya**  
and **Victor G. Ramirez**  
THE RIDER

Tuition for undocumented students in higher education institutions could more than double if HB 413 and SB 576 are passed on the 86th Texas Legislature.

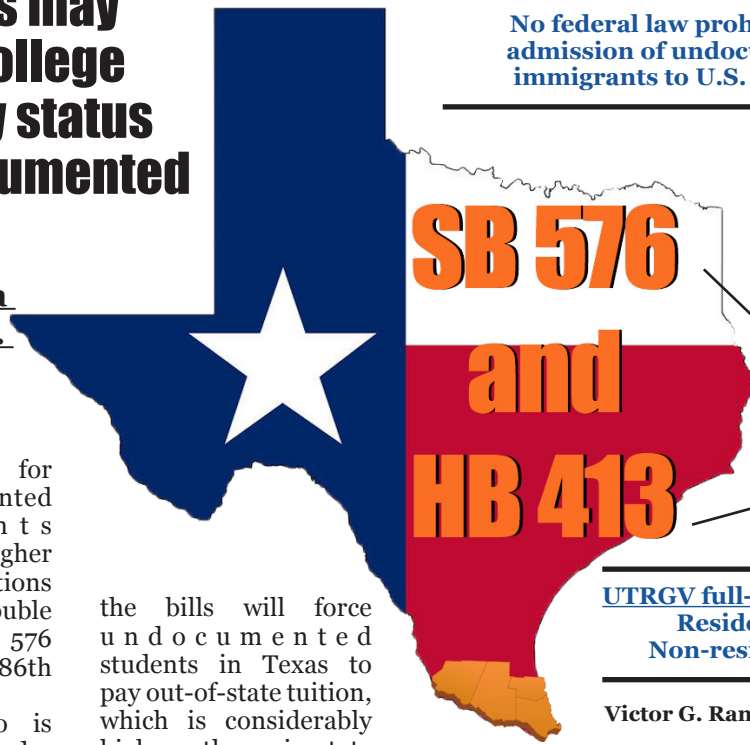
"A person who is not authorized under federal statute to be present in the United States may not be considered a resident of this state for purposes of this title," the bills read.

If approved during the legislative session,

the bills will force undocumented students in Texas to pay out-of-state tuition, which is considerably higher than in-state tuition.

As an example, UTRGV's current Texas resident or in-state tuition for the academic year 2018-2019 is \$3,906.56 for 12 hours per semester. On the contrary, the non-

No federal law prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges



Undocumented population: 1,597,000

Undocumented students would pay out-of-state tuition

UTRGV full-time student tuition  
Resident: \$3,906.56  
Non-resident: \$8,886.56

Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

resident or out-of-state tuition is \$8,886.56.

Sylvia Gonzalez-Gorman, a political science assistant professor, said there will be economic consequences if any of these bills are passed.

"It will be interesting to see if it'll actually go through because there's been a lot of pushback on these two bills," Gonzalez-Gorman said. "People are recognizing that these affidavit

See **BILLS**, Page 10

## New psychology course added

**Zugay Treviño**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV added a graduate course at the end of last fall which allowed six students to enroll in Integrative Primary Care for the College of Health Professions (COUN6380) this semester.

The course, taught by Associate Professor Selma Yznaga, typically meets every other week through the software application Zoom. The physical location of the course is on the Brownsville campus this semester

and depends on the location of the students.

She will teach the course again in Spring 2020.

"The course is open to counseling students, clinical psychology students, social work students, rehab students, anybody in a mental health related training [graduate] field," said Deepu George, a School of Medicine assistant professor.

Yznaga said the students are learning through a different model and are not trained to work in a primary care setting.

See **COURSE**, Page 11



Cristian Cervantes/THE RIDER

The STARGATE Technology Center, located on State Highway 4 adjacent to Boca Chica Beach, is now open. The building will serve as a base for radio frequency laboratories, incubator space for companies and have an electronics lab for prototyping RF instruments.

## 'An entire universe to explore'

**Eric Montoya**  
SPANISH EDITOR

Local leaders say the new STARGATE Technology Center will open doors for students, faculty and entrepreneurs interested in the space exploration industry.

"They're the reason we are here," UTRGV President Guy Bailey told the press on March 18 after the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the STARGATE facility. "We hope that the startups will be startups of those students. ... We hope this will be a great attraction for students. This is a great area to go into."

The Spacecraft Tracking and Astronomical Research into Gigahertz Astrophysical Transient Emission, or STARGATE, is a program within UTRGV's Center for Advanced Radio

Astronomy (CARA) that will serve to provide lab space for research on space exploration and will collaborate with SpaceX.

"This is really the future of what we do," Bailey said during the ceremony. "If you go around the United States, you'll find very few universities that have a facility like this."

Keisi A. Caballero, a physics graduate student, said the facility puts UTRGV students in the same level as other universities that have the same advanced equipment.

"We are barely starting to get there and, hopefully, we can get more equipment and more stuff so that other students can also have opportunities to work here," Caballero said.

See **STARGATE**, Page 11



# THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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MORE THAN A  
NEWSPAPER



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Today**  
**Texas Hold'em Tournament**  
The Student Union will host a Texas Hold'em

**tournament** at noon in the game room on the Edinburg campus. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn VBucks. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Vaquero Ice Cream Bar**

The UTRGV Student Union will serve **free ice cream** with toppings at noon in the Student Union Veranda on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Student Ensemble Series**

The UTRGV **Low Brass Choir** and **Trombone Choir** will perform at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 665-3881.

**Tuesday**

**InqSpot Book Club**

Students may pick up a copy of **Julie Murphy's** book, "Dumplin'," while supplies last, at the Student Union Info Desk on the Edinburg campus and in the game room on the Brownsville campus. A discussion of the book will take place at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Union Loft on the Edinburg campus and in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus. Coffee and cookies will be provided. For more information, call 665-7989.

**Support group**

The **Office of Victim Advocacy and Prevention** will host a **free support group** at 12:15 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West 1.142 on the Edinburg campus. The support group is for dating, domestic violence, and sexual

assault victims and survivors. For more information, call 665-8287.

**Painting with your own twist**

The **Center for Diversity and Inclusion** and **DREAM Resource Center** will host a **painting event** from 2 to 6 p.m. in Student Union 1.20 on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at the same time Thursday in EUCTR 306A. Supplies will be provided. For more information, call 882-5140.

**Wednesday**

**Info session**

A bachelor of arts in addictions studies **information session** will take place at noon in Life and Health Sciences Building 2.312 on the Brownsville campus. The session will be conducted by Assistant Professor **Eluterio Blanco**, who will provide information about the new major. For more information, email eluterio.blanco01@utrgv.edu.

**Gaming tournament**

A **Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament** will take place at noon in the game room on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union game room. Participants must bring their own Nintendo Switch. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn VBucks. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Movie showing**

**Campus Programming Board** will host a screening of the movie, "Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse" at 7 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at the same time in the South Quad. For more information, email cpb@utrgv.edu.

**Thursday**

**Gaming hour**

The **Student Union** will offer free play from noon to 3 p.m. in the game room on the Brownsville campus. Play video games, board games, air hockey and billiards. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Date My Book**

The **Student Union** will host a **date my book event** at 5 p.m. in the Student Union Loft on the Edinburg campus. Attendees must bring their favorite book and convince others it is their perfect match. Free coffee and cookies will be provided. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Student Ensemble Series**

The UTRGV **Guitar Ensembles** will perform as part of the **2019 UTRGV Guitar Festival** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

**Friday**

**Guest Artist Series**

**Isaac Bustos**, a classical guitarist, pedagogue and educator, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. The performance is part of the 2019 UTRGV Guitar Festival. Admission is \$10, seniors and students pay \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

**Saturday**

**Guitar concert**

**Jeronimo Maya**, a flamenco guitarist, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. The performance is part of the 2019 UTRGV Guitar Festival. Admission is \$10, seniors and students pay \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

## POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 5 and 15.

**March 5**

**7:46 a.m.:** A major car accident involving three vehicles took place off campus. An officer tended to the injured, including a student who

was bleeding profusely from a serious leg injury. The Edinburg Police Department arrived and arrested a non-affiliated man responsible for the accident for possession of marijuana.

**11:38 p.m.:** A student reported that his former roommate made concerning comments about him in Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus. Contact was made with involved students, but no criminal element was ascertained.

**March 6**

**UPDATE:** Two staff members were arrested for the theft of a computer from a previous case that occurred between July 24 and Aug. 14, 2018. Both subjects were jailed in the Edinburg City Jail.

**8:23 a.m.:** A staff member reported his vehicle window was chipped by flying debris from a weed trimmer near the Academic Support Facility Compound on the Edinburg campus.

**12:11 p.m.:** Ten university iPads and laptops were reported missing at Cortez Hall on the Brownsville campus. The items were last physically checked during their last annual inventory in 2017. The items were kept at different local high schools so their location is unknown.

**5:37 p.m.:** A staff member found drug paraphernalia inside a resident's room while conducting a Health and Safety Inspection in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The paraphernalia had no drug residue on them, and was confiscated by the staff member for administrative action.

**6:20 p.m.:** A staff member found a bottle of alcohol inside a resident's room while conducting a Health and Safety Inspection in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. He confiscated the alcohol to dispose of it and said they would file an administrative report for administrative action.

**6:20 p.m.:** A staff member found an unopened can of alcohol inside a resident's room while conducting a Health and Safety Inspection in Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus. An officer took possession of the alcohol, disposing the contents in front of the staff member. She said they would file an administrative report for administrative action.

**March 7**

**2:11 p.m.:** A student reported he was injured while practicing folkloric dance March 5 at the Health & Physical Education II on the Edinburg campus. He accidentally cut himself on his right ankle using a prop machete during the routine, and was taken to Rio Grande Emergency Care, receiving stitches for his injuries.

**2:56 p.m.:** A parking and transportation staff member reported that a student was using a fake student parking permit on his vehicle in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. The student claimed he made a copy of his own permit to put on his vehicle. He paid all associated fines.

**5:03 p.m.:** A staff member found alcoholic beverages and a tobacco smoking pipe during a Health and Safety Inspection at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. Resident assistants disposed of the alcohol.

**7:59 p.m.:** A non-affiliated man was found sleeping on the steps of the Cueto Building on the Brownsville campus.

He was issued a written criminal trespass warning and left the area without incident.

**March 10**

**4:41 p.m.:** Several uniform items were allegedly stolen between noon and 4:41 p.m. from the locker room in the UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus.

**March 11**

**11:02 a.m.:** A housing supervisor reported seeing bottles of liquor in a resident's apartment when he went in to have the air conditioner serviced at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The two student residents violated housing policy and will be handled by administrative staff.

**March 12**

**11:13 a.m.:** A non-affiliated cyclist hit the front bumper of a stopped vehicle at the exit of Lot E-37 on the Edinburg campus. The cyclist suffered minor injuries, but declined medical attention. No damage was reported to both the bicycle and vehicle.

**March 13**

**11:53 a.m.:** While conducting a stop for a traffic violation near the Brownsville campus, an officer noticed that the driver possessed two current Texas driver's licenses. The officer confiscated one of the licenses and made the driver aware of the violation. She was issued a written warning for the traffic violation originally stopped for.

**March 15**

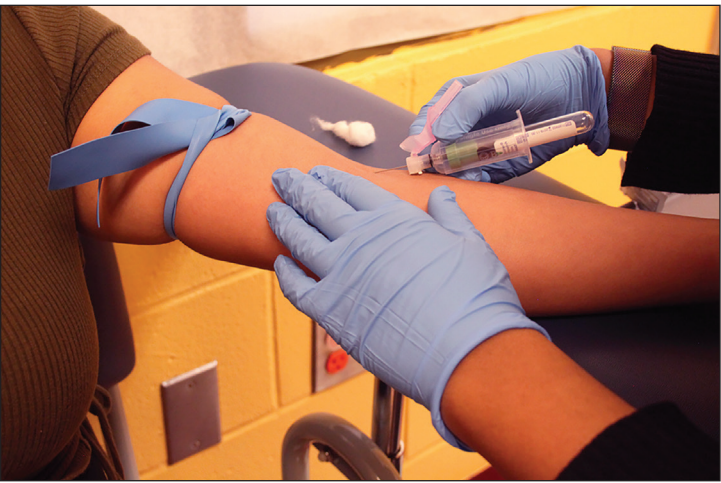
**1:46 a.m.:** An officer and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the Health Affairs East Building on the Edinburg campus. The fire panel indicated a water flow riser in the building. The fire department later cleared the building for re-entry.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo



# A day to save lives

## UTRGV School of Nursing clinical group to host inaugural blood drive



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

A nurse from the Area Health Education Center in San Carlos draws blood from a patient.

### Klaudia Cedillo

THE RIDER

A clinical group of UTRGV nursing students, including their instructor Nancy Nadeau, a clinical associate professor of the School of Nursing, are partnering up with South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) to host their first ever blood drive.

The blood drive will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 1 in Health Affairs Building East Skills Lab 1.112 on the Edinburg campus and will be open to eligible faculty, staff, students and community members who wish to donate.

STBTC will bring its own team of 15 to 16 licensed phlebotomists and nurses who will be doing the blood

draws and needle sticks, while UTRGV nursing students will help coordinate and manage the event.

All donations will stay in the Rio Grande Valley for use within hospitals, emergencies and in STBT centers.

Every person who donates will receive a \$10 Subway gift card donated by STBTC, a pen and a thank-you card on behalf of the School of Nursing. Donors will also be eligible to enter a raffle for a chance to win three gift cards.

“We will have three Visa gift cards,” Nursing senior Melissa Gaouette said. “One of them is going to be \$50 and the other two will both be \$25. So, three lucky individuals will have the opportunity to win those gift cards if they donate. We will

also have a personalized frame and we will be taking videos and photos of the individuals who donate so they can have a personal memory of joining us in this journey and this experience of conducting our first blood drive.”

Kristopher Reyes, a nursing senior, said that STBTC had been very accommodating and helpful to the team in teaching them the registration system. Reyes said their biggest challenge was finding donors willing to sign up to schedule time out of their day to donate.

“We want to get as many as we can to come in and donate just to save lives and make a difference,” Karen Carranza, a nursing senior said. “It’s really needed. Like, when we do clinicals, we see it at the hospitals and stuff where they need blood a lot.”

Registering donors with appointments will save individual’s time, instead of waiting in line for long periods, Gaouette said.

Reyes said that walk-ins are welcome, but recommends scheduling ahead of time to set a place.

Asked on the specific goal of 120 donors, he replied, “South Texas Blood & Tissue Center also works with UTSA and, so, the reason for 120 is that we’d like to have a little competition with UTSA to see who can get the most donors. They are a larger school than us, but their records have

shown they usually pull off about 60 donors, 60 students, so, as UTRGV, we want to see if we can top them out, double [their numbers].”

As of last Wednesday, the group had successfully reached their goal, but are still accepting donors, due to the fact that “20 [percent] of donors may be deferred after the prework up survey and testing,” according to their Facebook page.

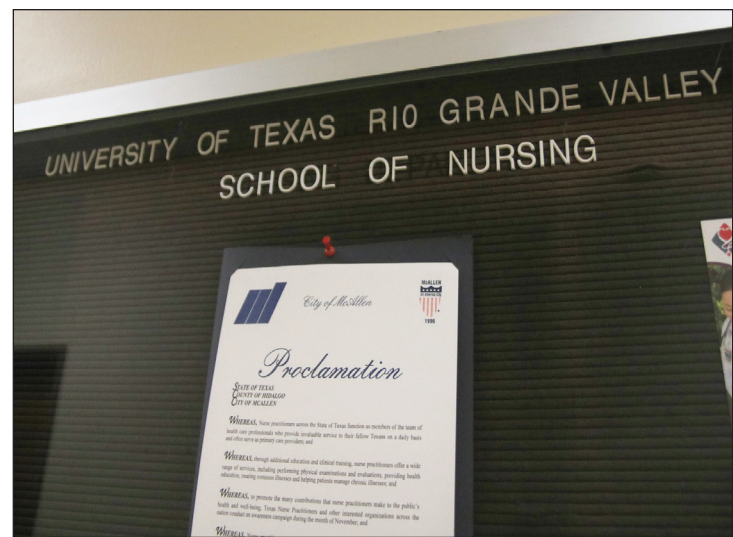
“We will also be sending text reminders of when their scheduled appointment will be and I think, if they were to miss, we will contact them via text message to see when the next available time would be

or when they can arrive and then we can accommodate based on how we’re doing on the time slots,” Gaouette said.

All three nursing students said they felt a combination of excitement, anxiousness and fear for the event, but enthusiastic to see the registered donors helping out the community.

“This event is part of our senior project for our Community Nursing class, and, hopefully, this [blood drive] becomes a tradition for the School of Nursing to continue on,” Reyes said.

For more information on the blood drive, visit [facebook.com/events/263458844574054/](https://www.facebook.com/events/263458844574054/).



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

The UTRGV School of Nursing is hoping to garner 120 donors for the blood drive on April 1.

# More than what meets the eye

## Panel examines women’s portrayal in the media

### Nubia Reyna

THE RIDER

More than 40 students gathered last Monday to celebrate Women’s History Month with a “Taco ‘bout it” discussion panel about women’s portrayal in the media, Kylie Jenner’s billionaire status and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Speakers of the event held in Salon Cassia on the Brownsville campus were Celeste De Luna, an art lecturer, Amie Bostic, a sociology and anthropology assistant professor, and Diana Noreen Rivera, a literatures and cultural studies assistant professor.

“It is interesting because people really attribute a woman’s credibility to things about how she looks and it can go either way,” De Luna said regarding women in the media. “Oh, she is too pretty, so she is not smart enough or she is fat and ugly, so, she is obviously not credible enough. It is just the way we are socialized.”

The event was decorated with colorful flowers on each table and on the sides, photos of the exhibit “Latinas of Hope” were displayed.

“We always have to be aware about who is in charge of the news syndicate,” Rivera said. “What are their ideas and ideologies, left wing, right wing, conservative? Fox [News] tends to



Cristian Cervantes/THE RIDER

Diana Noreen Rivera (from left), Literatures and Cultural Studies assistant professor, Amie Bostic, sociology assistant professor, and Celeste De Luna, School of Art lecturer, discuss women’s portrayal in the media during the “Taco ‘bout it” panel on March 18 in Salon Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

really demonize [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez] hard core, versus the other news outlets that are more concerned with her policies.

“Someone who is really interested in the representation of women’s identities in the media should notice

this, just looking at the facts. Forget politics and policies and [your] own views.”

During the panel, students raised their concerns on the objectification of women’s bodies and the steps they have to take to become successful.

“You have to be really careful,” Rivera said. “Kylie Jenner has the money to hire all these coaches and personal trainers to bounce back after having her little *hija*. And to what point is her beauty defined by a man? She got her breasts implants for a reason.”

Bostic asked attendees how many of them have bought Kylie Jenner’s makeup. More than 15 people raised their hand.

“Those lip kits are legit,” she said. “They are really good, and that’s the point that I wanna make. Her products are good, they stand alone. So, why does she have to [take sexy selfies on Instagram]?”

De Luna said women should be themselves and dress however they want to dress.

“Women should just be themselves,” she said. “I know women who are smart, beautiful, wear revealing clothing and they have degrees.”

Asked about the upcoming elections and if she thinks the United States will have a woman president, Rivera replied she does not feel “very optimistic,” but encouraged students to participate to see change.

“Be active voters,” Rivera said. “Put someone in the position where they can speak for you and your reforms that you want to see take place.”



# VAQUERO VOICE



## 2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



I'm not too familiar with all of the candidates, but the ones that I do recognize are Bernie Sanders and Beto O'Rourke. I think that they're both very strong candidates. I think that a lot of the propositions that they've proposed could do some good to ... the country as a whole. I understand that there is a strong opposition towards them, but I just think that those that aren't in favor of them just need to see the bigger picture because what they have in mind for our future, not only affects this current generation, but future generations as well.

**Myriam Flores**  
English junior

"So far, the candidates who are running for presidency in 2020 are pretty good. I'm not really into politics, but I am familiar with the names that have been coming up. I know, for sure, Joe Biden has been vice president, so he has the most experience, other than President Trump."



**Jose Pizaña**  
Biology sophomore



*"Pues, yo pienso que están haciendo un buen trabajo y creo que, más que nada como hispano, como inmigrante, pienso que Beto O'Rourke está, no se, en la cima de todo porque está dando puntos bien importantes para nosotros, como las personas que tienen DACA y todo eso. Creo que está ganando muy buena audiencia, más que nada en las personas de aquí de la universidad".*

**Andrea Ochoa**  
Estudiante de tercer año en negocios internacionales

Well, to start off ... I think it's a great comeback for Beto because even though he lost the senatorial election, I guess he got inspired to do something like this, which is something some people might see as a good thing because there are a lot of people in our country and in the [Rio Grande] Valley that do not like Trump. So, this is something great for, I would say the liberals, because the [Rio Grande] Valley tends to be very democratic. Um, but then there is also the question that, you know, what does that mean for [Beto]? Because, I mean, he lost the election here. So, could he really win the presidential election? Who knows? It just depends on voters.



**Julian Fernandez**  
Biology junior

--Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza



# RGV culture shock



**Jacqueline Peraza**  
THE RIDER

"Are you going to live on a ranch? Did you know people get around

on horses there? Next time you visit you'll say things like, 'Howdy' and 'Y'all,'" were a few remarks I received from my friends after telling them I would be moving to Texas in less than a month.

I had just started high school in Arizona, which meant that I would have to repeat the transition process all over again. I spent the next couple of weeks educating myself on as much Texas knowledge I could google.

All I was able to gather was that all of George Strait's exes lived in Texas, they had these famous gas stations called "Buc-ee's" and everything was bigger there (for some odd reason, I have yet to find out).

Towns I drove by on my way here kept straying

farther and farther from the picture I had engraved in my mind. The Rio Grande Valley was nothing like how "Texas" is portrayed on television or what my Arizonian family and friends thought.

The Valley was like the small town I grew up in, but 40 times bigger in size, and has hundreds of things to do and see. So, I guess it wasn't like Nogales, Arizona, at all. The only thing they had in common was that they are both Mexican-American border cities.

Valley weather is a mixture of warmth and humidity; all cities are lined with beautiful palm trees and the beach is only an hour away. The Valley is dominated by the Mexican culture and embraces people of all ethnicities and beliefs.

People love to help others but are quick to cut you off on the expressway. Many people who have resided here their entire life are first to look over what the Valley has to offer. Coming from a town that had one movie theater, a bowling alley, a couple of baseball fields and a Walmart, moving

down here was eye opening.

Suddenly, I lived less than a mile away from H-E-B, I could choose between three movie theaters near me, go ice skating if I wanted or walk around the McAllen Convention Center with friends.

Although I was constantly exposed to the Hispanic culture in Arizona, the RGV feels like a little piece of Mexico found in the United States. I was not expecting so many residents to speak Spanish and for the streets to be speckled with hundreds of taco stands or snack shops. Everywhere I turned, I found something that felt a little bit like home back in Arizona.

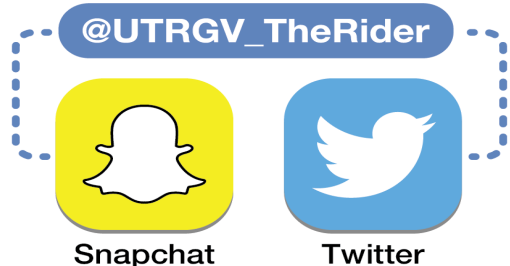
I was terrified of change and feeling out of place before moving. However, I understand why my parents decided it was in my and my younger brother's best interest to relocate. I was lucky enough to pursue what interests me, attend the best schools and build friendships with new people.

The Rio Grande Valley is now home.

## Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to [therider@utrgv.edu](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu). All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

## FOLLOW US!





# Colegiatura podría incrementar para estudiantes indocumentados

## Proyectos de ley planean cambiar el estado de residencia de universitarios

**Eric Montoya y  
Victor G. Ramirez**  
THE RIDER

El costo de la colegiatura para los estudiantes indocumentados podría incrementar a más del doble si los proyectos de ley HB 413 y SB 576 son aprobados en la 86a Legislatura de Texas.

“Una persona que no está autorizada por el estatuto federal para estar presente en los Estados Unidos no puede ser considerada residente de este estado a efectos del presente título”, el proyecto de ley menciona.

Si son aprobados durante la sesión legislativa, estos proyectos de ley obligarían a los estudiantes indocumentados en Texas a pagar una colegiatura como estudiante no residente, la cual es considerablemente más costosa que la colegiatura para residentes.

Actualmente, el costo de la colegiatura en UTRGV para el año académico 2018-2019 es de \$3,906.56 dólares por 12 horas por semestre. Mientras tanto, la colegiatura para un estudiante no residente es de \$8,886.56.

Sylvia Gonzalez-Gorman, una profesora de ciencia política, dijo que habrá consecuencias económicas si se aprueba cualquiera de estos proyectos de ley.

“Será interesante ver si realmente lo aprueban, porque ha habido bastante oposición en ambos proyectos de ley”, dijo Gonzalez-Gorman. “La gente se está dando cuenta que estos estudiantes que son admisibles para la colegiatura de residente, ellos generan ingresos para el estado de Texas cada año”.

Ella dijo que ha habido estudios donde se comprueba que el estado podría perder cerca de \$400 millones de dólares en actividad económica si se obliga a los estudiantes a cumplir con estos nuevos requisitos para la residencia.

“Sabemos que los estudiantes que

# SB 576 HB 413

Las universidades podrían solicitar información adicional para comprobar el estado de residencia de los estudiantes.

Los estudiantes indocumentados tendrían que pagar colegiatura para no residentes.

**No hay ley federal que prohíba la admisión de inmigrantes indocumentados en universidades de EE. UU.**

**Colegiatura de tiempo completo en UTRGV**  
Residentes: \$3,906.56  
No residentes: \$8,886.56

se gradúan con una licenciatura tienen un potencial de ingresos más alto”, Gonzalez dijo.

Este tipo de universitarios tienen 60 por ciento más potencial de ingresos que aquellos que no asisten a la universidad, ella dijo.

En una declaración enviada a *The Rider* el 7 de marzo, el representante de Estado Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) dijo que cualquier ley que obligue a los estudiantes a pagar su colegiatura como no residentes afectará a los universitarios.

“La mayoría de los estudiantes probablemente no podrán pagar las cuotas de una colegiatura para no residentes”, Dominguez escribió en

su declaración. “Por lo tanto, las universidades locales ... sufrirán, ya que perderían a estos estudiantes quienes no reciben ayuda financiera federal, y así, reducirían la cantidad de ingresos que estas escuelas y universidades usan para pagar al profesorado y al personal, y financiar proyectos”.

Actualmente, la Sección 54.052 del Código de Educación les permite a las instituciones de educación superior asignar el estado de residente a una

persona que obtuvo un diploma de una preparatoria pública o privada en el estado de Texas o equivalente, sin importar su situación migratoria.

De acuerdo con esta sección, una persona con un diploma de preparatoria quien residió continuamente en Texas también puede ser clasificada como un estudiante residente, siempre y cuando haya residido en Texas por

--los tres años precedentes a la fecha de graduación o otorgamiento del diploma equivalente;

-- y el año precedente a la fecha del censo del curso académico en el que la persona se inscribió en una institución de educación superior.

Sin embargo, el HB 413 y el SB 576 también planea modificar la Sección 54.052 por medio de la cancelación de estas dos disposiciones. Esto significa que un diploma de preparatoria dejará de ser un factor en la determinación del estado de residencia para estudiantes en el estado de Texas.

Además, SB 576 incluye una nueva opción para las instituciones de educación superior que les permitiría solicitar información adicional para

comprobar el estado de residencia de los estudiantes.

Al preguntarle de que manera estos proyectos de ley HB 413 y SB 576 afectarán a UTRGV, Gonzalez-Gorman contestó, “Le afectaría bastante, ya que los estudiantes que están aquí sin documentación tendrán que pagar la colegiatura de no residentes. ... Eso significaría un gran descenso en inscripciones ... en UTRGV”.

Acerca del impacto que estos proyectos de ley tendrían en los estudiantes protegidos por el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA, por sus siglas en inglés), ella dijo que es probable que este caso termine en las cortes.

“Sabemos que los estudiantes de DACA están protegidos por un estatuto federal por el momento, ya que todavía está en la corte”, dijo Gonzalez-Gorman. “Esa va a ser otra área donde la gente se va a oponer diciendo, ‘Oye, esto todavía está en la corte. DACA todavía se encuentra en el sistema de cortes’. Así que, ellos todavía tienen esas protecciones, de acuerdo con el estatuto”.

DACA provee protección temporal en contra de la deportación a cerca de 800,000 jóvenes que fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos ilegalmente cuando eran niños, siempre y cuando puedan satisfacer ciertos requisitos, de acuerdo con whitehouse.gov.

**“La mayoría de los estudiantes probablemente no podrán pagar las cuotas de una colegiatura para no residentes”.**

**Alex Dominguez**  
Representante de Estado

# ‘Un universo entero por explorar’



Cristian Cervantes/The Rider

Líderes locales, dignatarios de UTRGV y estudiantes posan para la foto durante el corte del listón en la inauguración del nuevo STARGATE Technology Center el pasado 18 de marzo en Boca Chica Beach.

**Eric Montoya**  
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Líderes locales dicen que el STARGATE Technology Center les abrirá varias puertas a los estudiantes, al profesorado y a los emprendedores interesados en la industria de la exploración espacial.

“Ellos son la razón por la que estamos aquí”, dijo el rector de UTRGV Guy Bailey el pasado 18 de marzo después de la ceremonia de inauguración de las instalaciones de STARGATE. “Esperamos que esta sea una gran atracción para

los estudiantes”.

El Spacecraft Tracking and Astronomical Research into Gigahertz Astrophysical Transient Emission, o STARGATE, es un programa que es parte del UTRGV Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy (CARA) que servirá para proveer un espacio de laboratorio para investigación sobre exploración espacial y colaborará con SpaceX.

“Esto es el futuro de lo que hacemos”, dijo Bailey durante la ceremonia. “Si viajas por los Estados Unidos, encontrarás muy pocas universidades que



# Best in the bay

## UTRGV nets 58 state awards, Director's Trophy

**Victor G. Ramirez**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students from five UTRGV media programs spent part of their Spring Break competing in the 110th Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention in Corpus Christi and brought home 59 awards, including the Director's Trophy.

Student members of *The Rider* newspaper, UTRGV-TV, UTRGV Radio, and Pulse and Gallery magazines represented the university at the convention held March 13 to 16.

TIPA is the oldest state collegiate press association in the nation and has grown into one of the largest and most respected collegiate groups in the country, according to its website.

For the first time in university history, UTRGV garnered its first Director's Trophy, which is given to the school that wins the most points by placing in the on-site contests during the convention.

Students participated in live competitions that included news writing, radio advertising, television sports writing, print advertising, editorial cartoon and copy editing, among others.

In the on-site contests, *The Rider* won seven awards. Reporter Jessica Mendez received first place in Radio Advertising; Spanish Editor Eric Montoya, first place in Spanish News Writing; Social Media Editor Sergio Garcia, first place in Print Advertising; Photographer Aaliyah Garza, first place in Editorial Cartoon; Reporter Samantha Garza, first place in Spanish Radio Announcing; Online Editor Leslie Medrano, second place in Copy Editing; and Reporter Maleny Ortega, honorable mention in Press Release Writing.

*The Rider* also placed third in the Best of Show category.

UTRGV-TV Assistant Station Manager Yuliana Quiroz earned first

place in Spanish TV Announcing; Chief Reporter Nathaniel Puente, first place in TV Sports Writing; and News Director Neida Alcantar, third place in TV Advertising.

In the English Radio Announcing competition, UTRGV Radio Station Manager Albert Monroy placed first and Reporter Jerry Galindo garnered second place in Radio Sports Writing.

Pulse Magazine Writer Yazmin Sanchez earned second in Yearbook Design.

In the previously published and broadcast categories of the competition, works from UTRGV won 44 awards among Division 1 schools, including University of North Texas, Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M University. Awards included 19 from *The Rider*, 13 from UTRGV-TV, six from Pulse magazine, five from UTRGV Radio and one from Gallery magazine.

*The Rider* newspaper netted an honorable mention in the Newspaper Overall Excellence category.

Garcia placed first in Social Media Breaking News with a video named "Body pulled from Fort Brown Resaca."

Arts and Entertainment editor Britney Valdez earned first in Headline Writing with "Seas the day."

Montoya captured first and third place in the Spanish Feature Story category and second in Spanish

Opinion Writing.

Mendez and former newspaper editor-in-chief Jesus Sanchez placed first in Spanish Feature News Reporting.

Former newspaper photographer Joahana Segundo earned first place in the Multimedia Slideshow category.

Alain Lestarpe, former online editor for *The Rider*, won second place in Sports Game Story.

Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Victor G. Ramirez placed second in General News and Multimedia Slideshow.

In a collaborative effort, Montoya and Ramirez garnered third place in Spanish News Story with a story about immigration issues in Brownsville named "Guiando sus destinos."

Sanchez earned third place for Feature Page Design, Multimedia Feature, Illustration, Interactive Graphic and an honorable mention for General News Multimedia.

Mendez received an honorable mention for Ad Design-Static.

UTRGV-TV placed second in Overall Excellence Television Program and Newscast Video.

Former Chief Reporter Ileana Moreno netted first place in Spanish General News Reporting with a video story named "Avance del Centro de Diversidad e Inclusión" and an honorable mention for General News Multimedia.

Jacqueline Arias, former reporter for UTRGV-TV, placed second in In-Depth Reporting Multimedia.

TV Station Manager Illiana Luna, Quiroz and former News Director J.P. Hernandez captured second place for Program Production Video.

Puente earned second place in In-Depth Reporting Video.

UTRGV-TV Reporter Marisol Villarreal garnered third in In-Depth Reporting Multimedia.

Former TV Reporter Kenia Gomez placed third in Spanish General News Reporting.

Reporter Rocio Villalobos won third place in Spanish Feature News Reporting.

Luna also received third place in Sportscast Video.

Quiroz garnered third for In-Depth Reporting Video and received an honorable mention for General News Video.

Pulse magazine received an honorable mention in Overall Design and Overall Excellence for General Magazine.

Pulse Editor-in-Chief Erik Webster earned first place in the Environmental Portrait category, third in Advertising/PSA Video and received an honorable mention in Photo Story.

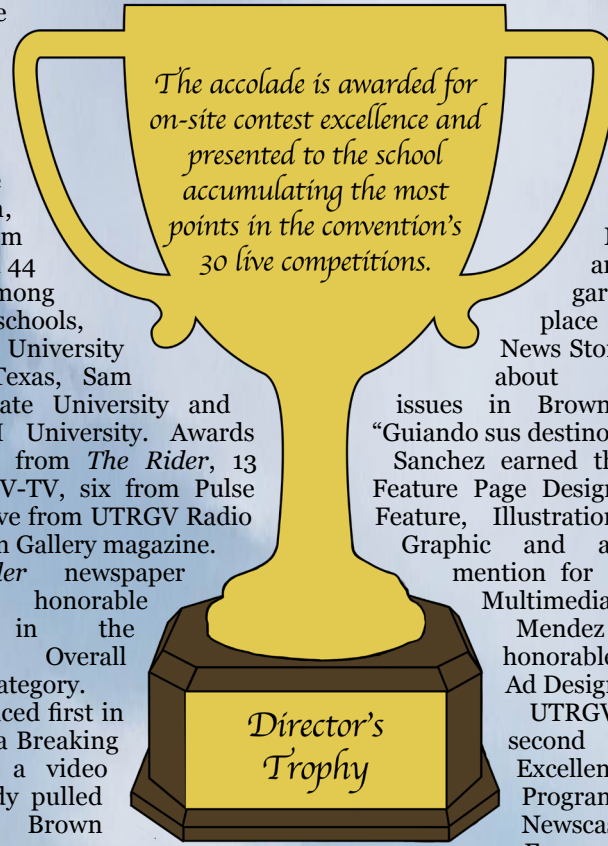
Celeste Strange, former Pulse section editor, placed third in the Cartoon Strip/Panel category.

UTRGV Radio won second place in Program Production Audio.

Monroy captured first and, alongside Zugay Treviño, newspaper reporter and Gallery co-editor-in-chief, third place in General News Audio. He also won second in In-Depth Reporting Audio.

Radio News Director Hannah Lopez earned third place in In-Depth Reporting Audio.

Gallery magazine contributor Rozena Shirvani won second place in Environmental Portraits.



UTRGV media programs won 59 awards, including its first Director's Trophy, at the 110th Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention held March 13 to 16 in Corpus Christi.





# When college gets ruff, pet a dog

## Meet Ñato, UTRGV's fur-st canine pal

**Britney Valdez**  
A&E EDITOR

Most weekdays, Ñato can be found doing "socials" at the bookstore on the Brownsville campus and leaving smiles wherever he goes. He is a Shih tzu who was adopted by Blanca Garcia and Ervin Vilchis.

Garcia is the administrative assistant at the Center of Gravitational Wave Astronomy and Vilchis is the department's special events and community outreach coordinator.

Ñato was adopted from a family living in San Juan. When adopted, he was 11 months old.

"He is from San Juan," Garcia said. "His family, they were going to move up north. So, they were not going to take him and they were looking for a house for him and we adopted him."

Coincidentally, Ñato was the same breed of dog as Chata, another Shih tzu who lived with Garcia's family for almost 11 years.

"[Chata] became part of our family when she was 1 month old," she said. "Unfortunately, she passed away in our house in Mexico where she was visiting my grandmother for a few weeks."

Without any prior knowledge of what breed Ñato would be, Garcia was excited when she first saw him.

"[Vilchis] called me on the phone and told me, 'There was this person ... that wants to let him go. The family is not going to take him up north, so they're looking for a house.' And I was like, 'Take him, take him and we can adopt him,' and he said, 'No, but I don't think so. It's going to be a lot of work' and I was like, 'Just take him.'"

"I had a feeling about the dog. I hadn't even seen it, but I asked him for a picture of it and he sent it to me and two years before I knew about this dog, I had a Shih tzu who passed away and it was the same breed. ... When he came with the dog, he reminded me of my previous dog."

Garcia formed a connection with Ñato immediately.

"I couldn't say goodbye to [Chata] and that broke my heart into pieces," she said. "So, when Ñato came, I had an instant connection with him. It was



Jorge Abundiz / THE RIDER PHOTOS

Ñato plays on the floor last Thursday in Calvary Hall on the Brownsville campus. Ñato can sometimes be spotted at the campus bookstore and plays with the customers at the café.

like seeing Chata again."

Ñato accompanies Garcia and Vilchis to work so he wouldn't be home by himself.

"He'll just cry all day, but you know how dogs cry for a bit and after that, they calm down," Vilchis said. "But the reason is that they don't like to be alone. Even if they are left in a [different room] for two minutes, they just start crying and all this stuff, so we tell them, 'Hey, if you want to come, you need to respect people' because I know some people don't like dogs."

Ñato comes to school four out of five days of the week and visits the campus bookstore in the morning.

"When we are at home, he gets very excited 'cause he wants to come early and as soon as we go out, he goes inside the car because he wants to have his little social," Garcia said. "Well, he's here, he goes to the seminars and he goes to other classes where we have physics classes."

Ñato also makes friends from different departments every day.

"People from the art department, health department [and] from Cortez, they come and say hi to him," Garcia said. "Like, 'Oh, is your dog here?' and

sometimes when he doesn't come, I'm like, 'I'm sorry, he isn't in today' and

they come on the next day."

They take their dogs everywhere they go, including shopping. For Christmas, they took them to meet Santa Claus.

"We took [him and our other dogs] to Bass Pro [Shop in Harlingen] to take a picture [with Santa Claus]," Vilchis said. "They were really excited because they had [an area] that was especially for pets and they went to go take pictures and they were really happy that day. They met other dogs and made friends [with them] and they received gifts from Santa."

Garcia wants the campus community to value and spend time with their loved ones, including their pets.

"I would like to encourage people to treat them, not just as your pet, but as a family member," she said. "Just to give them love and respect as a family member, as someone you love, because they don't know if you had a hard time during the day, they just give you joy."

"They just give you hugs and cuddles. It's the purest love, that I can say, from a dog because they don't expect anything as an exchange," Garcia said. "They just give love no matter what."



Ñato (left) is held by owner Blanca Garcia, an administrative assistant last Thursday in the Cavalry building on the Brownsville campus. Also shown is Ervin Vilchis, special events and community outreach coordinator for the Center of Gravitational Wave Astronomy. Ñato comes to work with his owners every day.

### Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite

# WAKE UP, SUNSHINE!

CHAD, GET UP!  
DIDN'T YOU HEAR?  
WE HAVE  
TO ENTERTAIN  
THE READERS.

SNORE Z Z Z



Z Z Z  
Z Z Z  
Z Z Z





Edinburg

# City to purchase large equipment

**Samantha Garza**  
THE RIDER

A resident voiced her concern about bids to purchase equipment for the Department of Solid Waste Management at the Edinburg City Council meeting last Tuesday. The council later approved and explained how the process would be carried out.

During public comments, Objective Watchers of the Legal System (O.W.L.) member Fern McClaugherty asked the councilmembers about the bids listed under items "H," "I," "J," "K" and "L."

McClaugherty was concerned the city would be doing a lease to purchase of the equipment needed for the Department of Solid Waste Management. This would cost more than purchasing the equipment.

"I hope that y'all won't just whoosh and go through this and check and see which is best," she said. "Y'all want to do a good job, then let's see you save our money and save it in the best way. Thank you."

Before authorizing the last purchase on the agenda, the councilmembers entered the discussion addressing the comment made by McClaugherty.

"We have a big responsibility and you have a lot of work to do, and we want you to know that we aren't doing this without looking at it," Councilmember David



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

During last Tuesday's Edinburg City Council meeting, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Martiniano Martinez was presented with the Patriotic Employer Award by Jesus Rodriguez, area chair for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Pictured (from left) are Mayor Pro-Tem David Torres, Councilmember Jorge Salinas, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Eric Molina, Martinez, Mayor Richard Molina, Rodriguez, Director of Parks and Recreation Javier Garza, Councilmember Gilbert Enriquez and Councilmember Homer Jasso Jr.

Torres said. "I think it went through advisory board here." Mayor Richard Molina confirmed that the item went through an advisory board.

Ramiro L. Gomez, director of the Department of Solid Waste Management, explained that the city's law of purchase of capital allows financing of equipment.

"That allows us to finance these purchases of equipment for the allowed time of the actual useful life of these pieces of equipment," Gomez said. "So, [if] the useful life of the piece of equipment is for seven years, we would actually

finance for seven years."

The councilmembers approved the awarding of bids to purchase the following equipment for the Department of Solid Waste Management:

--Bid No. 2019-44, purchase of two half-ton trucks to Caldwell County Chevrolet of Caldwell in the amount of \$56,390;

--Bid No. 2019-45, purchase of two new Residential Automated Right Hand Drive Side Load Retriever to Rush Truck Centers of Pharr in the amount of \$639,770;

--Bid No. 2019-47, purchase of two Truck

Mounted Knuckleboom with Refuse Collection Dumpbody to Rush Truck Centers of Pharr in the amount of \$426,809.70;

--Bid No. 2019-40, purchase of one new Steel Wheel Landfill Compactor to Holt Cat of Edinburg in the amount of \$1,110,800;

--and the purchase of a 1050K Crawler Dozer through Buyboard, a Cooperative Purchasing Entity in the State of Texas, from Doggett Heavy Machinery Services of San Juan in the amount of \$664,862.

As the only resolution

on the agenda, the council approved an amnesty period to waive fines of the overdue materials of the Dustin M. Sekula Memorial Library.

The amnesty period will take place the entire month of April, in which residents will be able to return their overdue library materials without paying a fine.

This action is taken "in an effort to recuperate library materials and encourage patrons to once again return to the library and have full access to all available services," the agenda item states.

In other business, Martiniano Martinez, the Parks and Recreation supervisor, was presented the Patriotic Employer Award by Jesus A. Rodriguez, area chair of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"I'm going to accept this award on behalf of the city, the mayor, the council, all the employers, the employees, everybody that has been a part of this," Martinez said. "I did not get this award by myself. ... Most of all, I would like to thank all of the veterans and all the reserves, because they are the ones that should really be getting credit for this award."

Rodriguez also recognized the city with a statement of support "for the outstanding and commitment of the city to the veterans, and the reserves, and guardsmen that work, that are employees of the city."

See EDINBURG, Page 11

Brownsville

# TxDOT presents median plan to city commission

**Maleny Ortega**  
THE RIDER

The bidding process for a State Highway 48, also known as Boca Chica Boulevard, raised median will take place in April.

Texas Department of Transportation presented the project during last Tuesday's Brownsville City Commission meeting.

Octavio Saenz, a public information officer for TxDOT, told *The Rider* the purpose of the presentation was to inform local leadership what the project includes.

Saenz said one of the things medians do is ensure safer rides. The median would enhance safety, reduce congestion and improve mobility.

"It limits cross-section turning," he said. "That area is one of the state's most, not only most congested, but has a lot of accidents. If we see several of the major avenues that we've had in the Rio Grande Valley ... it allows traffic to flow faster because it prevents individuals from making turns wherever they want."

The median is planned to extend from I-69E to International Boulevard with an approximate length of 1.5 miles. The \$3.03 million project involves constructing a raised median where no right of way is needed, sidewalks and to provide signal synchronization.

The next step of the proposed project is the bidding process in April. Construction is anticipated to start in

July with an approximate completion length of 14 months.

TxDOT held a public meeting July 2018 in the Oliveira Middle School cafeteria to discuss the proposed State Highway 48 median.

The meeting allowed the public to view and comment on the proposed median, according to a notice of public meeting document from TxDOT.

Due to feedback from the public meeting, changes were made to the project regarding median openings and signal synchronization as well as conducting traffic studies.

Full median openings will be placed on FM 1847, Old Port Isabel Road, Brownsville Plaza/Strawberry Square, Kings Highway, Security Drive and a directional median opening will be placed on North Street. Traffic signals will be removed on Simpson Street Intersection and Los Amigos Plaza/Home Depot Intersection.

In the items for consideration during last Tuesday's meeting, the commission approved a resolution to sign an application requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board.

The amount is not to exceed \$7 million and will be used for "stormwater management projects to reduce the effects of major flooding events throughout the City," according to agenda binder documents.

David Licon Jr., engineer 1 for the city, said the projects will help to reduce flooding in major areas, such as Four Corners (International and Boca



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Homer Bazan Jr., a Texas Department of Transportation director of Transportation Planning and Development, speaks to the Brownsville City Commission during last Tuesday's meeting. Bazan was one of two presenters who spoke on the proposed raised median to be placed on State Highway 48, also known as Boca Chica Boulevard.

Chica Boulevards) in Brownsville.

"We know that Brownsville floods in really extreme areas and the amount of money that's needed to do a lot of those ... improvements is normally exceeding what the city has available per year," Licon said. "So, we thought that, really, to start doing some major improvements to our drainage system, we need to go ask for large amounts of money."

In other business, the commission: --appointed Olga Gonzalez as a regular member to the Building and Standards Commission and David Diaz and Carlos

Martinez as alternates; --and approved the final reading on a new Code of Ethics with a floor amendment from District 4 Commissioner Ben Neece.

"Section 38-69 entitled subsequent employment, a person who is a former member of the city commission shall not be employed by the city or any other entity of the city for a period of one year after the termination of his official duties," Neece said. "And then leaving sections 38-70 to 38-95 reserved for future expansions of the chapter."



# Vaqueros advance in tourney

## UTRGV wins opening game against GSU



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

UTRGV junior forward Lesley Varner II (left) and sophomore forward Terry Winn III attempt to stop Grambling State University guard Ivy Smith Jr. from dribbling the ball toward the basket.

### Ramiro Barrera

SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV will play against Texas Southern University in the second round of the Collegeinsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT) at 7 p.m. today in the Fieldhouse.

On March 17, the UTRGV athletic department announced the men's basketball team would host its first home postseason game as an NCAA Division I team.

In the first round last Wednesday, the Vaqueros defeated the Grambling State University Tigers 74-73 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse in the opening game of the 2019 CIT, earning its first victory in a Division 1 postseason tournament.

The last time UTRGV won 21 games was in the 1989-90 season. Now, the Vaqueros hold an overall record of 20 wins and 16 losses. In the 2001-02 season, they also

won 20 games. This season, the Vaqueros are on the verge of setting a new program record of wins.

Wednesday night's was UTRGV's second largest home crowd of the season and largest at the fieldhouse since Feb. 18, 2017, according to goutrgv.com

During the first four and half minutes of the first half, both teams traded a couple of baskets. Then, Vaquero junior guard Jordan Jackson made

a layup and hit a 3-pointer to power a 10-0 run that led UTRGV to a 19-8 lead.

GSU got back with a 22-7 run, taking a 30-26 lead over the Vaqueros, but shortly after, UTRGV responded with another 10-0 run after junior forward Lesley Varner II made a jumper. GSU scored another 11 points but the Vaqueros remained with the lead 42-41 at halftime.

In the second half, Jackson hit a 3-pointer but GSU scored six-straight points to take the lead 47-45 over UTRGV.

The Vaqueros were down 70-63 with 4:53 remaining, but graduate guard Tyson Smith hit a 3-pointer and a couple of free throws, which was followed by senior forward Terry Winn III who sunk a layup, helping the Vaqueros tie the score 70-70.

GSU junior guard Dallas Polk-Hilliard made a 3-pointer with less than two minutes left, putting his team back on top, but Winn III made a layup with 57.9 seconds remaining and a pair of free throws with 9.8 seconds left, reaching the score 74-73 to end the game.

Winn was asked about the free throws that led UTRGV to win.

"We had some shots go in that didn't go in at the time period," Winn responded. "I just had to make the free throws, really."

Smith led the Vaqueros with

19 points and seven assists. Varner scored 14 points with six rebounds and two steals, sophomore guard Javon Levi scored 14 points with seven assists and three steals, Winn scored 10 points with six rebounds and Jackson finished with 10 points and two blocks.

Head Coach Lew Hill gave his general statement about last Wednesday's opener win.

"Well, like I told my guys, we take all wins, right?" Hill said. "It wasn't pretty. At the end of the year, it goes down pretty ugly, it goes down to win. So, we don't throw them back. It wasn't our best defensive game today, it wasn't our best effort game today, but like we've been doing all year, dug down when it counted and found a way to win."

Other results of the CIT first round include:

- New Jersey Institute of Technology vs. Quinnipiac University 92-81;
- Robert Morris University vs. Cornell University 98-89;
- Marshall University vs. Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis 78-73;
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. East Tennessee State University 102-94;
- Texas Southern University vs. University of New Orleans 95-89;
- and Presbyterian College vs. Seattle University 73-68.

## Basketball teams competed in Las Vegas

### Ramiro Barrera

SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV men's and women's basketball teams ended their regular season at the Western Athletic Conference Tournament hosted March 13 to 16 at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

The Vaqueros faced the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners in the quarterfinals game, where they won 85-70 and earned their opportunity to face the top seeded team New Mexico State University in the semifinals. UTRGV made its first appearance in the semifinals, but fell short 79-72 against the Aggies.

Graduate guard Tyson Smith was selected as part of the All-Western Athletic Conference Tournament Team. Smith scored 19 points and made two assists in the quarterfinals game against CSU, Bakersfield, helping the Vaqueros reach the semifinals.

Head Coach Lew Hill talked about the experience on these two games at WAC tourney.

"We saw what we've been seeing all year—resiliency... toughness... togetherness," Hill said. "The first game, our guys played tremendously. We just came out and took a big lead. CSU, Bakersfield made a run and we answered it. The second game, we didn't come out with the same intensity, the same fight, but as has been happening all year, the



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Grand Canyon University junior forward Da'jah Daniel tries to block UTRGV senior forward Kris-ynthia Sampson on her attempt to score a two-pointer during Feb. 7 game in the Fieldhouse in Edinburg. The Vaqueras defeated the Antelopes 49-42.

second half, when we were down 19, our guys never quit. They never stopped playing. We came back and made it a game. We had a chance to win it. We used so much energy coming back that I think we got a little fatigued at the end, so we couldn't finish it out."

The women's basketball team also played in Las Vegas. It faced Seattle University in the quarterfinals game. The Vaqueras won 56-54 against the Redhawks. In the semifinals,

the team, coached by Head Coach Lane Lord, defeated the CSU, Bakersfield Roadrunners 69-58, earning the opportunity to play in the Championship game.

The Championship game was played between UTRGV and New Mexico State University. The Vaqueras forced the game into a double overtime, but at the end, the Aggies won 76-73.

Graduate forward Madison Northcutt earned All-Tournament team honors by averaging 12.7 points

## This week's game schedule

### Men's Basketball (postseason)

- 7 p.m. Today vs. Texas Southern University at UTRGV Fieldhouse

### Baseball

- Three-game series vs. University of Northern Colorado 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday

### Women's Soccer

### (pre-season)

- 2 p.m. Saturday vs. University of Texas at San Antonio at UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex

### Men's Soccer (pre-season)

- 4:30 p.m. Saturday vs. Alumni at UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex



# A pizza campus cuisine



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

UTRGV students wait in line to order their meals at the new Pizza Hut station Monday in the Edinburg Student Union. Pizza Hut is open on both campuses Monday through Friday. The station is open from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday on the Edinburg campus.



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Exercise science senior Tyler Gonzalez grabs a box of pizza March 18 from the Pizza Hut station in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. The Pizza Hut station offers various types of pizza at different prices and is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday on the Brownsville campus or until supplies last.

## BILLS

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students that are eligible for this in-state tuition, they actually generate revenue for the state of Texas every year."

She said there have been studies proving that if students have to meet this residency requirement, the state of Texas could lose close to \$400 million in economic activity.

"We know that students who graduate with a bachelor's degree have higher earning potential and affidavit students have an earning potential of 60 percent higher than those that don't ever go to college," Gonzalez-Gorman said.

In a statement sent to *The Rider* on March 7, state Rep. for House District 37 Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) said any law that forces students to pay out-of-state tuition will hurt students.

"Most students would probably be unable to pay out-of-state tuition

fees," the statement written by Dominguez reads. "Therefore, local colleges and universities will suffer because they would lose these paying students who do not receive federal financial aid, and thus, reducing the amount of revenue that these colleges and universities use to pay faculty and staff, and fund programs."

Currently, Section 54.052 of the Education Code allows higher education institutions to assign resident status to a person who obtained a public or private high school diploma in the state of Texas or equivalent, regardless of immigration status.

According to the section, a person with a high school diploma who maintained residence continuously in Texas can also be classified as a resident student, as long as they maintained residence for

-- the three years preceding the date of graduation or receipt of the diploma equivalent, as applicable;  
-- and the year preceding the census

date of the academic term in which the person is enrolled in an institution of higher education.

However, HB 413 and SB 576 also aim to amend Section 54.052 by rescinding these two provisions. This means that a high school diploma will no longer be a factor on determining residency status in the state of Texas.

In addition, SB 576 has included a new option for higher education institutions that will enable them to ask students for additional information to prove residency status.

"An institution of higher education may establish a policy requiring a person for whom a residency determination is being made to submit specific documentation to verify to the satisfaction of the institution that the person is authorized under federal statute to be present in the United States," SB 576 reads.

Asked how bills HB 413 and SB 576 will affect UTRGV, Gonzalez-Gorman replied, "It would affect it hugely because, now, students that are maybe

here undocumented, they're going to have to pay the out-of-state tuition. ... That's going to mean a huge drop in enrollment. It will be a significant drop in enrollment for UTRGV."

Regarding the impact of the bills on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, she said the case is likely to end up in court.

"We know that DACA [students], they're protected under federal statute right now, because it's still on the court," Gonzalez-Gorman said. "That's going to be another area where people are going to push back saying, 'Hey, this is still on the court. DACA is still on the court system.' So, they still have those protections, according to the statute."

The DACA program provides about 800,000 young people who were brought illegally to the United States as children with temporary protection from deportation if they can demonstrate that they meet several criteria, according to whitehouse.gov.

## CHESS

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happy with second. It was, like, better than I expected."

The following day, UTRGV finished second place in the U.S. Collegiate Blitz Chess Championship, which took place in the same location. Vazquez garnered third place, winning six games, drawing two and losing one.

Blitz chess games last only three minutes with an additional two seconds added per move, Macieja said.

Vazquez said he played better during the individual competition and prefers the fast-time controls.

"I actually prefer blitz and rapid over regular [chess], and I actually like rapid more than blitz," he said. "It's a good balance between thinking and intuition."

Throughout the semester, at every tournament it participated in, the UTRGV Chess Team was determined to win.

On Feb. 23, the team attended the 2019 Southwest Collegiate Championship in Plano. Three UTRGV chess teams participated at the event, each one of them with three members. Chess Team A won first place and Team B won second place.

Stukopin was the leader of Team B



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV Chess Grandmaster Kamil Dragun competed with the chess team as they won the National Collegiate Championship in Rapid Chess on March 16 in Saint Louis, Missouri. Dragun also won a bronze medal in the Texas Individual Rapid Chess Championship on Feb. 2 in Brownsville.

during the competition and said they were close to beating Team A.

"Not only were we close, we were also leading in the tournament," Stukopin said. "We had a perfect score before we played the match against our A team."

Gabuzyan won the 2019 Southwest

Class Chess Championship, which took place Feb. 14 to 18 in Fort Worth.

He said he felt discouraged at the beginning of the tournament, since he was not performing well, but was able to get back on his feet.

Dragun, member of Team A, said

playing against team members is never easy for him.

"It's not comfortable," he said. "I never like to play against my friends. We have to do that sometimes, but for me, it's not pleasant."

Dragun also won a bronze medal in the Texas Individual Rapid Chess Championship, which took place Feb. 2 in Brownsville.

In Burlingame, California, near the San Francisco Bay Area, Stukopin won first place at the 2019 Bay Area International tournament, which took place Jan. 1 to 7. He participated with 23 other grandmasters, including his coach, Macieja.

However, the two were not able to play against each other, Stukopin said.

"We won the state championship, we won the southwest championship," Macieja said. "Now, we won the rapid championship, but what I would like

to stress is that we are winning not because we are much better than everybody else. I don't want to make expectations that we are the best team and we have nobody to compete against, this is not true. ... The fact that we are winning is great, but I don't want people to get used to it, and then consider not winning or finishing second as a defeat. It would still be an amazing success."



**COURSE**  
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“Training them in this model, I think, gives them more marketability,” she said. “So, they have more opportunities for employment, but it also really helps them understand the model within which they’re going to work.”

George said most mental health training programs focus on training psychotherapists or people that do therapy or assessments.

“We know that a lot of people who actually receive any mental health care, they actually don’t receive it from a therapist or a mental health specialist,” he said. “They actually receive it when they visit their primary care doctor, or in another medical setting. There are no trained people in primary care settings to really address mental health issues at a primary care level.”

The students are being trained in mental health skills and learn how to translate that into a medical setting.

“You’re also expanding what your definition of behavioral health is,”

George said. “Most people, likely, are to think about mental health or behavior health and say, ‘Oh, depression, anxiety,’ and then some really extreme things like bipolar, or schizophrenia.

“Whereas for a clinician like myself working in primary care, for us, behavioral health is a lot of things. It includes mental health, it includes health behaviors, it includes chronic disease management, it includes stress-length physical symptoms.”

He said, as an example, if a patient is being treated by a physician but the patient is going to the emergency room six times a month, it is a health behavior issue.

“The counseling students that are taking this class are learning how those things intersect, which are traditionally not focused in

mental health training,” George said. “Traditional mental health training is not going to cover diabetes, for example ... [or] weight loss.”

Yznaga said most people who are struggling with weight issues visit a primary care physician.

“But, it is largely a lifestyle choice, a behavioral health issue,” she said. “People don’t come to counseling. In general, for weight loss or weight management. They go to their doctor and their doctor doesn’t know exactly how to help them change their lifestyle or their behavioral choices.”

There are a lot of behavioral health issues that negatively impact health outcomes, Yznaga said.

“We are talking about things like smoking ... physical activities, a lot of things we don’t necessarily address in counseling,” she said. “They’re

learning a lot about those choices that they make, that make them feel sick.”

George said they like to remove the divide between the mind and body and are concerned about a patient’s health in general.

“We’re focusing on brief interventions in this course,” Yznaga said. “Another big distinction for our students is we focus on functionality. We assess what is wrong on a day-to-day basis. We’re not looking into deep psychological issues. We just want to know how we can help client patients improve their health on a day-to-day basis, where they are having impaired functioning and how we can improve that.”

She hopes to add a clinical skills course and two internship courses in the future. George said a clinical skills course would allow for students to gain a broad overview.

“On top of internship[s], ... we spoke about having certain courses that are just specifically focused on Latino health issues and how does a primary care behavioral health respond to those with evidence-based behavioral intervention,” George said.

**STARGATE**  
*Continued from Page 1*

Brent K. Cole, a physics graduate student, said the center will offer students an opportunity to work on their projects.

“It’s absolutely amazing that Dr. Jenet gives us this opportunity, the university, as well as the representatives that helped us with the funding,” Cole said.

Caballero and Cole will conduct their research at the new STARGATE

Technology Center, which is located on State Highway 4 and adjacent to Boca Chica Beach. The building will serve as a base for radio frequency laboratories, incubator space for companies and have an electronics lab for prototyping radio-frequency instruments.

In an interview with *The Rider*, Fredrick A. Jenet, creator and director of CARA, said STARGATE received almost \$10 million in funding, which was used

for the development of the facility.

“The city had put in about half a million [dollars] and then there was about another \$4 million, or so, that came from state and another \$4.5 [million], or so, that came from UT System,” he said.

Among the dignitaries that attended the ceremony were Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez, EDA Regional Director Jorge Ayala, District 4 Commissioner Ben Neece and U.S. Rep.

Filemon Vela (D-Texas).

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Martinez thanked everyone who helped to create STARGATE.

“Today, I want to really acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of giants that have the vision as to what needed to be done,” he said.

The cost of the STARGATE building, which measures 15,000 gross square feet on a 2.3-acre site, is \$2.2 million. The facility is composed of classrooms, a flexible lab

and research space.

STARGATE is working on a next generation radio frequency communications system, a smart surveillance system, a laser communication system that allows satellite-to-satellite communication, and technology to extract energy from ocean waves, according to Jenet.

“This is just the beginning,” he said. “We have an entire universe to explore, so we’ve got to get to it.”

**UNIVERSO**  
*Continuación de Página 5*

tienen instalaciones como esta”.

Keeisi A. Caballero, una estudiante graduada en física, dijo que las instalaciones ponen a los estudiantes en el mismo nivel que otras universidades que tienen el mismo equipo avanzado.

“Apenas estamos empezando a llegar ahí y, con suerte, podremos conseguir más equipo y más cosas para que los estudiantes también puedan tener oportunidades para trabajar aquí”, Caballero dijo.

Brent K. Cole, un estudiante graduado en física, dijo que el centro ofrecerá a los estudiantes una oportunidad para trabajar en sus proyectos.

“Es absolutamente increíble que el Dr. Jenet nos está dando esta oportunidad, la universidad, así como también los dignatarios que nos apoyaron con la financiación”, Cole dijo.

Caballero y Cole conducirán sus investigaciones en el nuevo STARGATE Technology Center, el cual está localizado en State Highway 4 y es adyacente a la Boca Chica Beach. El edificio servirá como una base para laboratorios de radiofrecuencia, un espacio para incubar empresas y un laboratorio de electrónica para crear prototipos de instrumentos de radiofrecuencia.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Fredrick A. Jenet, creador y director de CARA, dijo que STARGATE recibió casi \$10 millones de dólares en financiamiento que fueron usados para

el desarrollo de las instalaciones.

“La ciudad puso cerca de medio millón de dólares y luego hay como otros \$4 millones, más o menos, que vienen del estado y otros \$4.5 millones, más o menos, que vinieron del UT System”, él dijo.

Entre los dignatarios que asistieron a la ceremonia estuvieron Tony Martinez, alcalde de Brownsville, Jorge Ayala, director regional de EDA, Ben Neece, comisionado del Distrito 4 y Filemon Vela (D-Texas), diputado del Distrito 34.

Durante la ceremonia de inauguración, Martinez agradeció a todos los que ayudaron a crear STARGATE.

“Hoy quiero realmente agradecer que estamos en manos de gigantes que tienen la visión en cuanto a lo que se necesita hacer”, él dijo.

El costo del edificio de STARGATE, el cual mide 15,000 pies cuadrados en un espacio de 2.3 acres, es de \$2.2 millones. Las instalaciones están compuestas por salones, un laboratorio multiusos y un espacio para investigación.

STARGATE se encuentra trabajando en un sistema de radio frecuencia de próxima generación, un sistema de vigilancia inteligente, un sistema de comunicación laser que permite la comunicación entre satélites, y tecnología capaz de extraer energía de las olas del mar, de acuerdo con Jenet.

“Esto es solo el comienzo”, dijo él. “Tenemos un universo entero por explorar, así que tenemos que alcanzarlo”.

“This has been a dream since the '90s, and this council is excited to make this venue a reality for our community,” Molina said.

Molina also announced the kickoff of the Little League season to be held on Saturday. The kickoff will take place at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium during the opening ceremony. Molina will be throwing the first pitch at the ceremony.

**EDINBURG**  
*Continued from Page 8*

During the mayor’s reports, Molina said, “You know, we always have something good happening in Edinburg.”

He announced the official unveiling of the renderings of the Edinburg South Texas Art and Cultural Center.

**March 25-29 Schedule**



**MONDAY**

Live Newscast, 9:30 a.m.

“Rock O’Clock” (Steven Flores) 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.

“Never Gets Old” (Esmeralda Olivia) 12-1 p.m.

“World’s Apart” (Andrea Saenz) 1-2 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

“Gamer’sTalk” (Ramiro Gonzalez) 12-1 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

“DJ Roland’s Variety Hour” (Rolando Avila) 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

“K-Ray”

(Ashley Castellanos and Adriana Rocha) 12:30-1:30 p.m.

“Rockin’ at Ease” (Mia Morales) 2-3 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

“Asian Invasion” (Elisia Gallardo) 9 -10 a.m.

“Heavy Metal Mania” (Nathaniel Puente and Justin Lopez) 12-1 p.m.

“UTRGV Alt” (Karina Aguirre) 3-4 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

“Too Early for Sports” (Luis Rubio) 8-9 p.m.

“Let the Vaquero Speak” (Luis Rubio) 9-10 p.m.

“Murder and Mayhem” (Marianita Escamilla) 10-11 p.m.

“Celebritea w/ Hannalie” (Natalie ) 2-3 p.m.

“Evening Daylight” (DJ Tropic Reaper ) 4-5 p.m.

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