

SPORTS



Intramural sports opportunities available for the 2020 spring semester.

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ESPAÑOL



Charreada, una tradición que comenzó en 2016, tendrá lugar el miércoles

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ON CAMPUS



On Jan. 22, Vaquero Radio learned it had been awarded a \$1,000 station grant from The College Radio Foundation.

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BRASS BAND



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

The San Diego Marine Corps Double Time Brass Band performed last Wednesday in the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. The band consists of all current U.S. Marine Corps members and plays with a New Orleans style brass and their own contemporary twist. Shown are saxophone instrumentalists Cpl. Chase A. Ketterling (from left) and Sgt. Derek Goszczynski, and trumpet instrumentalists Lance Cpls. Jonathan W. Schneider and Javier Astorga.

Marine ensemble performs at UTRGV

Hania Rocío
THE RIDER

UTRGV students and people of all ages enjoyed a lively concert

performed by the San Diego Marine Corps Double Time Brass Band last Wednesday on the Edinburg campus.

The event took place in the PlainsCapital Bank Student

Union Theater. The band is a New Orleans-style brass band and performs different styles of music, including Top 40

See **MARINE**, Page 6

'Black Panther' costume designer to visit UTRGV

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER



Ruth Carter

This semester, Ruth Carter, an Academy Award-winning costume designer, will be the Distinguished Speaker Series

guest at 7:30 p.m. March 3 in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus.

Carter has worked in the costume design industry over three decades and has been credited in over 40 films, including her most recent

VAQUERO VOICE

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work in "Black Panther," according to her official website.

Elianey Moya, program coordinator for Student Activities, said the DSS is a signature program that aims to provide the university and its surrounding communities

See **SPEAKER**, Page 6

Chess team's Belous checkmates rivals



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Accounting senior Grandmaster Vladimir Belous is on an individual-winning streak for the UTRGV Chess Team. Belous is a four-time Russian champion and was on the team for UTRGV's back-to-back National Championships in 2018 and 2019.

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Chess is traditionally a quiet game, but for UTRGV accounting senior Vladimir Belous channeling his inner anger and using it on the board is what has helped him get on a winning streak.

Belous learned to play chess at age 7, when his neighbor introduced him to his first chess coach on the local team.

The chess player was born in Ukraine and later moved to Russia, where he has won four individual championships. When it came time to further pursue his education, Belous said he chose UTRGV because he hit it off with Chess Coach Bartek Macieja, who speaks his native tongue, Russian.

"When I was decided to come to the United States, I couldn't speak English and our chess coach actually is from Poland, but he speaks Russian," Belous

said. "So, it was kind of comfortable for me to talk about [the] condition about university with him in Russian."

Macieja said Belous is an extremely talented chess player and told The Rider about a discussion he had with him at the beginning of the semester.

He said he felt Belous was underperforming and that ever since their conversation, he has been playing much better.

Belous has won the Russian championship under his age group four times and was on the UTRGV team when it won back-to-back national championships (the President's Cup) in 2018 and 2019.

He became a grandmaster, the highest title attainable in chess, in 2013 at 20 years old. He has been playing for the team for 3½ years.

He has been on a winning streak

See **CHESS**, Page 6

VAQUERO RADIO
NEWSCAST
9A.M. EVERY MONDAY
utrgvradio.com

THE RIDER

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Poker Tournament
A poker tournament will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus. The three finalists will be awarded VBucks.

Vaquero Ice Cream Bar
Free ice cream with various toppings to choose from will be served starting at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

Tuesday Game Release
Students can play **Street Fighter V: Champion Edition** at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in

the Game Room on the Brownsville campus.

Spring Career & Internship Expo
Students can meet national and regional employers for internship or career opportunities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Wednesday in the UREC on the Edinburg campus. Students are encouraged to bring ID, resumé and dress professionally.

Thursday InqSpot Book Club
Students can enjoy free coffee and cookies while discussing the book **Tanehsi Coates, The Water Dancer** from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in the Loft on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

Who's that Pokémon?

Students can celebrate **National Pokémon Day** at 3 p.m. in the Student Union Food Court on the Edinburg campus.

Women's Basketball

The **UTRGV Women's Basketball Team** will face off against **California State University** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Students receive free admission with a valid student ID.

Friday UTRGV Baseball

The **UTRGV Baseball Team** will face off against **South Dakota State University** at 7 p.m. in the Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus. Students receive free admission with a valid student ID.

-Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 10 and 18.



Feb. 10

10:37 a.m.: An officer responded to a theft of headphones at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. A bookstore employee provided a

description of the individual who took the headphones, enabling a second officer to locate her on the south side of the library. When the officer made contact with her, she became combative and refused to follow the officer's command. The officer struggled to place handcuffs on her but was eventually able to make the arrest. She was arrested on charges of theft, evading arrest and resisting arrest and was jailed in the Edinburg City Jail pending arraignment. Her vehicle was impounded by a local tow company.

12:19 p.m.: A staff member reported a university tablet was stolen from a lab at the Biomedical Research Building on the Brownsville campus. The tablet did not contain computer sensitive information. The case is under investigation.

2:48 p.m.: A student reported being harassed via social media by her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend, who allegedly has been looking for her at her place of employment on campus. She reported she felt scared when she saw him in the building. The case is under investigation.

3:49 p.m.: A staff member reported her university-issued iPad was stolen and has not been able to locate it. The iPad did not contain computer sensitive information. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 11

3:12 p.m.: An officer responded to a non-affiliated intoxicated man at the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus. The officer determined he was a danger to himself and others. A background check on the man revealed he had an active criminal trespass warning on file for UTRGV properties. He was arrested on charges of public intoxication and criminal trespass. He was jailed in the Edinburg City Jail.

Feb. 12

9:46 a.m.: A staff member reported a non-affiliated man working on replacing a window glass on a vehicle. The man had refused to move the work vehicle that was occupying several parking spaces in Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus, not allowing students to park. The staff member reported receiving a complaint from a student of his rudeness and refusal to move the vehicle. The staff member

asked him to move the vehicle but he refused again. The officer attempted making contact with the man, but the man was uncooperative. He was issued a written criminal trespass warning from all UTRGV properties for his uncooperative conduct. He left the area without further incident.

10:29 p.m.: An officer responded to University Recreation on the Edinburg campus due to an intoxicated student at the location. The student was given an opportunity to contact a family member to pick him up. His brother arrived and took responsibility for the student. Student Rights and Responsibilities will further review the incident.

Feb. 13

10:45 a.m.: An officer responded to a traffic collision involving two university vehicles on horseshoe driveway on the Brownsville campus. The vehicles involved were a shuttle and a Facilities vehicle. The bus struck the passenger rear-view mirror of the Facilities' vehicle. Minor damage was sustained. No injuries were reported. The shuttle did not have any passengers onboard.

Feb. 14

8:45 a.m.: A staff member reported a Texas registration sticker was stolen from inside a university vehicle. It was unknown when and where the incident occurred. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 15

3:04 a.m.: The UTRGV Police Department assisted the Edinburg Police Department with a search of a female prisoner at the city jail. EPD did not have a female officer on duty. No contraband was located during the search.

7:58 p.m.: A non-affiliated woman felt ill while attending an event in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Her symptoms were feeling light-headed, shortness of breath and chest pain. Emergency Medical Services arrived on scene and she was transported to Edinburg Regional Hospital for further evaluation.

Feb. 16

1:50 a.m.: An officer conducted a welfare check on a driver that was at a complete stop facing eastbound at the intersection of Tyler Street and University Boulevard in Brownsville.

The officer made contact with the driver. The driver had fallen asleep at the wheel and the officer determined him to be OK. The driver was allowed to have someone pick him up from the location due to work fatigue.

3:40 p.m.: An officer responded to Unity Hall in Edinburg due to a disturbance in progress. Upon arrival, it was determined a student was assaulted by her boyfriend who is also a student. Her boyfriend slapped her face, causing pain/discomfort during an argument. He was arrested on charges of assault and dating violence and jailed in the Edinburg City Jail. She was advised of the available services at UTRGV. Student Rights and Responsibilities will further review the incident.

Feb. 17

11:27 a.m.: A Bursar's Office staff member conducted an audit at the Athletics Department. The staff member reported finding an excess amount in the petty cash fund that was over the limit allowed to be kept by the department. The staff member needed to document the finding.

12:04 p.m.: A UTRGV communications operator noticed two individuals on the border cameras jumping the U.S. border fence in the area of Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus. UTRGV police officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents were notified and responded to the scene. UTRGV officers and Border Patrol apprehended one individual from Colombia and another from Nicaragua without incident. Border Patrol took custody of the individuals.

Feb. 18

12:09 a.m.: An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation. Upon contact, the non-affiliated operator displayed signs of intoxication. Standard field sobriety tests were administered but discontinued for safety reasons due to his highly intoxicated state. The operator was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and was transported to the Edinburg City Jail where he refused to provide the requested breath sample. The operator received a written warning for the traffic violation, and the vehicle was impounded by the on-call wrecker service.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia

CORRECTION

An article published in the Feb. 10 issue, headlined "Preparing for success," incorrectly reported that the UTRGV Men's Soccer Club's first match would be played at home. In fact, the match took place Feb. 15 at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

The jazzy sound of culture



Susan Mireles/THE RIDER

Music student Rudy Rodriguez (from left), music education sophomore Jorge Jaimie, music education junior Juan Virués, music education sophomore Francisco Chapa and jazz studies and applied saxophone Assistant Professor Josiah Boornazian perform jazz music for “Cultural Chat: Coffee and Jazz” attendees last Thursday on the Brownsville campus.

Alejandra Yañez THE RIDER

UTRGV Leadership and Social Change hosted “Cultural Chat: Coffee and Jazz” last Thursday in the Music, Science & Learning Center on the Brownsville campus.

Students enjoyed pastries, refreshments and live music by the Jazz Combo to celebrate Black History Month.

During the event, students sat at tables and chatted with one another while facing the musicians. It was a lively scene with upbeat jazz music that inspired camaraderie.

Sara Camacho, a psychology sophomore, said she had the idea Fall 2019 during a brainstorming meeting where Leadership and Social Change planned events for different cultures.

“Jazz is, like, a huge part of the black culture and I know it isn’t as showcased on, like,

the media and stuff like that,” Camacho said. “It’s something new that we don’t really, like, showcase a lot in the [Rio Grande] Valley so I just wanted to bring it up.”

Asked what people could take away from the event she replied, “to be more inclusive of different cultures. ... There’s a lot of different cultures out there in the world, it’s not just Hispanics.”

Vanessa Sandoval, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change, said part of her job is to bring representation for black students on campus.

“We want them to feel welcome,” Sandoval said. “We want them to feel that they are being heard and they’re being represented here in our university whether it’s in the Brownsville or in the Edinburg campuses.”

She said the program wanted to create an environment where students could enjoy themselves and appreciate different cultures.

“We wanted to provide that immersion of, like, hearing something different and seeing how that has been influenced for Black History Month,” Sandoval said.

Blanca Treviño, a mass communication senior, said she chose to attend the event because she loves supporting the arts and enjoys events where culture and music are celebrated.

“Hearing the music, it’s really beautiful,” Treviño said.

Asked what she took away from the event she replied, “Unity, and like I said, supporting groups. Maybe allowing yourself to be more educated on topics that you weren’t knowledgeable about before.”

Treviño said it is important for UTRGV to have events like this because it raises awareness about certain topics that people shy away from.

“An [event] like this, rather than scaring people away from wanting to learn more, or like you know, it’s not a boring event, like, it’s really pretty to come and ... to be with friends and hear this kind of music,” she said.

Francisco Chapa, a music education sophomore, played alto saxophone during the event with the UTRGV Jazz Combo.

See JAZZ, Page 6

Vaquero Radio awarded \$1,000 grant

Sol Garcia THE RIDER

On Jan. 22, Vaquero Radio learned it had been awarded a \$1,000 station grant from The College Radio Foundation.

In November 2019, political science Lecturer Robert Velez, the Vaquero Radio faculty adviser, submitted a grant request to The College Radio Foundation. The application required describing Vaquero Radio, its needs, and what the station would do with the grant money, should it be awarded.

Station Manager Natalie Zarate said the radio staff was surprised at hearing Vaquero Radio had been given the grant.

“We weren’t aware of the process of what [Velez] was doing, so shocked completely,” Zarate said. “But we were really excited, especially knowing that our adviser was putting in so

much work and dedication into our program.”

Earlier this year, Vaquero Radio changed its name from UTRGV Radio. The station will use the grant money to help promote its new brand.

“Part of any name change is promotion and telling people about our station,” Velez said.

He conducted a small poll in one of his classes, and the results showed few students know UTRGV has a radio station.

Vaquero Radio is on 24/7. The station generally has live shows from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A rotation of music plays when a live DJ is not on the station.

The grant money will also bring a radio professional into the studio to ensure the equipment is fully optimized since Vaquero Radio is internet-based,

See RADIO, Page 6



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

News station manager Samantha Garza works on a story while reporter Hector Tamez helps set up the station for a DJ radio show. The College Radio Foundation awarded the radio program a \$1,000 grant to help with rebranding efforts.

Building sustainability leaders of tomorrow

Sol Garcia THE RIDER

The UTRGV Office of Professional Education and Workforce Development created a Sustainability Student Leadership Program to enhance leadership skills in Sustainability Fellows.

The fellows are a group of graduate students who receive scholarships for their sustainability research projects.

“My goal with this program is to develop these graduate students to really understand sustainability from three different aspects, right, not just sustainability in terms

of the environment, but also from the help, and the education part of it,” said Jayshree Bhat, Professional Education and Workforce Development assistant vice president.

Parwinder Grewal, Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development executive vice president, said, “sustainability is how we utilize our resources, natural resources, to sustain ourselves currently and for future generations.”

The Sustainability Student Leadership Program consists of nine graduate students from various majors. These

students had the option to choose which sustainability research project they wanted to work on. The students are

--Armando Garces, “Developing an Effective Detection Model for Alzheimer’s Disease: A Sustainable Solution for Therapeutic Intervention”;

--Diego Alonso and Jaafar Mouhamad, “A Renewable Energy Project at UTRGV”;

--Jacqueline Lopez, “Frontera Project: A Vehicle for Sustainable Parent Engagement and Student Success”;

--Karla Salazar, “The Physical Study of Perfluoro-

Compounds and their Interactions with Water”;

--Mauricio Castellano, “From Seed to Harvest: The Pedagogical and Cognitive Development of Percussion Students from Beginner through University Graduate”;

--Omar Vazquez Perez and Zachery Johnson, “Zero Waste Project: A Food Composting Project at UTRGV”;

--and Raul Espinosa Perez, “Biosensor Capable of Detecting Suspicious Levels of Creatinine in Saliva in Order to Detect and Prevent Kidney Diseases.”

“So, we are looking at bringing together students

from as diversified areas as education to engineering to biomedical science so that they can collectively look at sustainability from their point of view and work on research projects that are multidisciplinary in nature,” Bhat said.

The program will provide LinkedIn Learning modules made by sustainability experts to improve the students’ leadership skills.

“They [will] learn about communication, how to be assertive in a business world, how to, you know,

See SUSTAINABILITY, Page 6

VAQUERO VOICE



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER



“Bill Nye would be really interesting. Bill Nye [is famous] in the scientific community. He’s kind of paved the way for most of our childhoods in introduction to science, and he still to this day [is] doing his thing, trying to teach science. And I think he would be interesting.”

Brandon Masso
Biology sophomore

“I would like to see more animal specialists come down here. So, that way they can give all of us a better understanding of the different things we can get into with our majors. It’s so broad that not a lot [of people] have a good understanding of what exactly we want to do after college with our degree plans. There is not a lot of them here in the [Rio Grande] Valley who are willing to talk to a lot of college students, as far as I’ve seen.”



Katherine Caballero
Marine biology freshman



“I would love to see Elon Musk. ... I love that he brought SpaceX down here to the [Rio Grande] Valley. It gave a lot of people, like welders, jobs. I’ve talked to their HR department and they’re super friendly.”

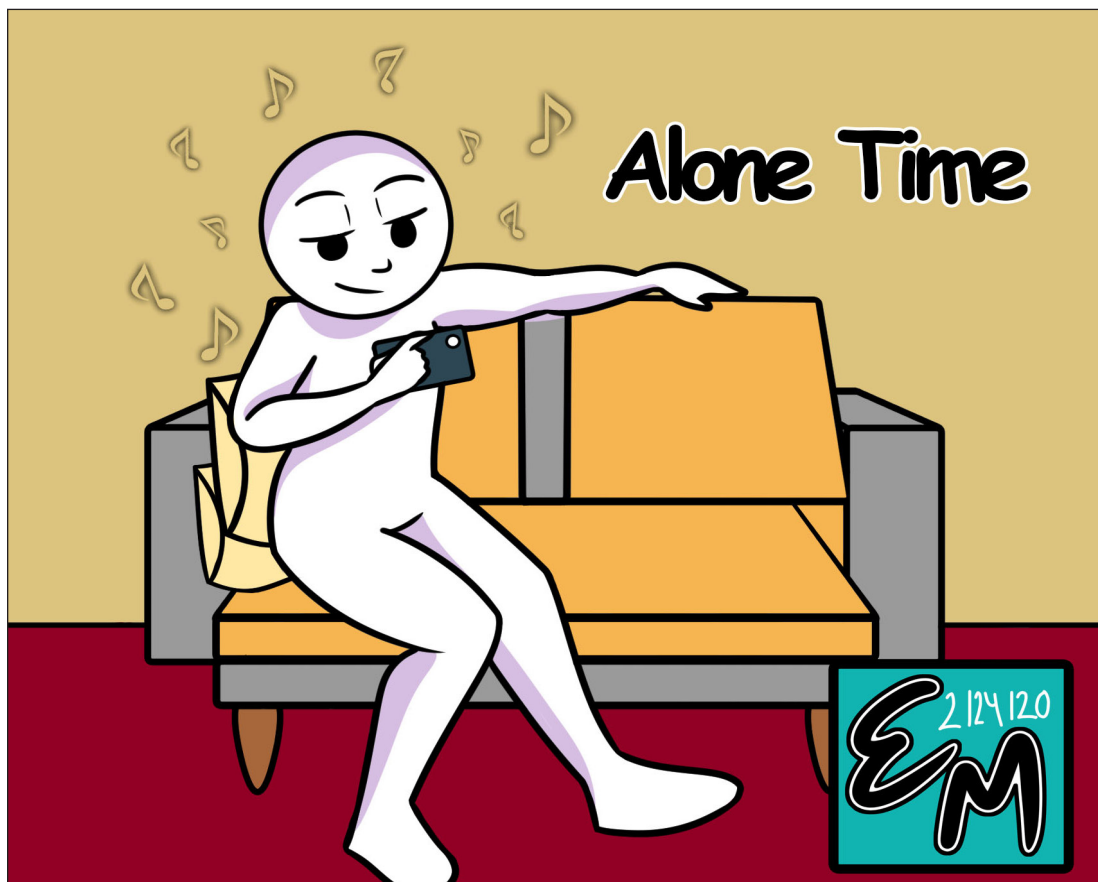
Carmela Parra
Speech pathology sophomore

“Me gustaría ver que vengan a hablar alguien de la carrera de justicia por que casi nunca vienen para hablar de esa carrera. Y también porque casi no hay, como, Hispanos tampoco que vienen de esa carrera también.”



Edgar Eduardo Moreno
Estudiante de primer año en criminología

--Compiled by Eduardo Galindo and Aaliyah Garza



Accepting the loner in yourself



Aldo Nava
THE RIDER

When I first arrived at the university my freshman year, I had expectations to make friends all the time because everyone told me, “College will be the best years of your life,” and “You’ll make so many friends.” After my first semester in college, I didn’t make any new friends and deep down inside, it hurt me.

When it hurt the most, was when my best friends who left the Rio Grande Valley for school would tell me that they did something spontaneous with their friend groups.

I was happy for them although I remember feeling meaningless.

Whenever I started to dwell on the idea, I would just say that it was my social anxiety, but I knew that was a lie.

While I did have friends outside of school, they were not people who I should have been associating myself with, because they didn’t have goals nor any priorities.

In retrospect, my grades

“Life has a plan for you. So, although life has your spirits down, the feeling will not last forever.”

were not so great, and I just wanted to be in school for the good times and not put in the effort in class.

At some point, I knew I had to change my bad habits and that if I wanted to turn the situation around, changes were going to have to be made.

I dedicated my days to studying more and focusing on

myself.

Most of the time, I found myself reflecting and thinking about every single aspect of my life.

Over time, I started to mind my own business and, without realization, isolating myself from the world. However, I did not feel alone.

I became OK with the idea that I didn’t need friends to be complete, and started to feel happy with my life.

Now, of course, over time, I started to understand myself and accept who I was, and I believe that’s when my life turned around again.

A whole new perspective on life allowed me to start new friendships that I cherish today.

I am not saying that it is the same for everyone or that it happened over night, but you do not need people to be happy.

Life has a plan for you. So, although life has your spirits down, the feeling will not last forever.

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. 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.



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER?
CALL US AT
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Semana de *fiesta*!

Maleny Ortega THE RIDER

Charreada, una tradición que comenzó en 2016, tendrá lugar el miércoles de 4 a 7 p.m. en el jardín del Student Union en Brownsville, donde se presentará un concurso de comer jalapeños, decoraciones temáticas y otras actividades.

El propósito de la Charreada, que está organizada por Actividades Estudiantiles, es acompañar y marcar el inicio de las celebraciones del Día del Charro que comenzaron el sábado pasado con el Baile del Sol Street Dance en la calle Elizabeth en el centro de Brownsville.

“En ese momento era unir UTRGV y [Texas Southmost College]”, dijo Maria Almanza, asesora del programa estudiantil para Actividades Estudiantiles. “Sé que es un evento muy significativo para los estudiantes de UTRGV, particularmente aquellos que están presentes en la Charreada incluyen la Oficina de Defensa de las Víctimas y Prevención de la Violencia (OVAVP), UREC, el Departamento de Vivienda y Residencia, Student Union y Superhero Project Initiative.

“Realmente espero que el público salga y disfrute de la Charreada”, dijo Almanza. “Solo espero que

disponibles para participar en la Charreada”. Los departamentos que estarán presentes en la Charreada incluyen la Oficina de Defensa de las Víctimas y Prevención de la Violencia (OVAVP), UREC, el Departamento de Vivienda y Residencia, Student Union y Superhero Project Initiative.

“Este año, el tiempo también se movió por una hora”, dijo ella. “El año pasado era de 3 a 6 p.m. Este año es de 4 a 7 p.m. con la esperanza de que haya más estudiantes



FOTO DE ARCHIVO

Estudiantes de UTRGV hacen diademas florales el año pasado durante el evento Charreada en el jardín del Student Union en el campus de Brownsville. UTRGV tendrá la Charreada en el campus de Brownsville el miércoles.

los profesores dejen que los estudiantes salgan y disfruten el evento ya que es, ya sabes, un evento culturalmente significativo”.

Mr. Amigo
Junto con la celebración de los Charros es el reconocimiento de Mr. Amigo, un ciudadano mexicano que simboliza unidad entre los Estados Unidos y México.

La tradición del Mr. Amigo comenzó a principios de la década de 1960 con un

pequeño grupo de líderes de la Cámara de Comercio de Brownsville, según Graciela Salazar, vicepresidenta de la Asociación de Mr. Amigo.

“Querían discutir una forma de promover las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y México”, dijo Salazar. “Ese fue el propósito original”.

El Mr. Amigo de este año es Julio César Chávez, un boxeador mexicano profesional retirado.

“Julio César Chávez es un

verdadero campeón en el ring y en la vida”, leyó Salazar de una carta del presidente del Mr. Amigo, Artemio Álvarez.

“Su primera pelea le ganó 150 pesos y le dio cada centavo a su madre. Más tarde, el 13 de septiembre de 1984, ganó su primer título de campeonato mundial y, como lo prometió, le compró una casa a su madre. Esos actos de bondad son de lo que se tratan los campeones”.

Salazar dijo que esa fue la razón por la cual el presidente de Mr. Amigo lo eligió.

En 1964, Miguel Alemán Valdés, ex presidente de México, fue nombrado el primer Mr. Amigo.

Las festividades del Mr. Amigo comienzan con el evento Hands Across the Border, que comenzará el viernes a las 10 a.m.

Más tarde, Mr. Amigo estará presente en el almuerzo en la ciudad y en la noche en el baile de disfraces del presidente, donde tocará La Sonora Santanera.

A las 9:30 a.m. del sábado, Mr. Amigo estará en el Paseo de la Fama en Linear Park. A partir de ahí, irá al Gran Desfile Internacional que comienza a las 1 p.m.

A diferencia de años anteriores, Mr. Amigo no aparecerá en el campus de Texas Southmost College.

Según Raúl Garza, ex presidente de la Asociación

Vea FIESTA, Página 10

Diseñadora de vestuario de ‘Pantera Negra’ visitará UTRGV



SOURCE WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ruth E. Carter, Academy Award-winning costume designer

Brigitte Ortiz THE RIDER

Este semestre, Ruth Carter, diseñadora de vestuario galardonada con un Premio de la Academia, será la invitada de Distinguished Speaker Series a las 7:30 p.m. el 3 de marzo en el teatro PlainsCapital Bank en el campus de Edinburg.

Carter ha trabajado en la industria del diseño de vestuario durante tres décadas y ha sido acreditada en más de 40 películas, incluido su trabajo más reciente en “Pantera Negra”, según su sitio web oficial.

Elianey Moya, coordinadora del programa de Actividades Estudiantiles, dijo que DSS es un programa emblemático que tiene como objetivo proporcionar a la universidad y sus comunidades circundantes líderes y profesores de clase mundial.

“El objetivo es que los estudiantes estén expuestos a estos oradores con la esperanza de que nuestros estudiantes, profesores, personal y comunidad piensen en sus propios desafíos o sus propias experiencias”, dijo Moya. “Y, con suerte, estos oradores puedan alentarlos a superar esos desafíos”.

Ella dijo que el comité seleccionó a Carter porque podría brindar una experiencia perspicaz para los

estudiantes de teatro y diseño de vestuario.

“Ella organizará una clase magistral con los estudiantes de teatro, pero será una clase magistral privada”, dijo Moya.

Jorge Guerrero, estudiante de último año en ingeniería informática, dijo que la conferencia de Carter beneficiaría a diferentes estudiantes.

“Específicamente, los estudiantes de teatro que tienen algún tipo de especialización en diseño de vestuario”, dijo Guerrero. “O incluso simplemente reflexionar sobre cómo entró en la carrera y cómo pueden expresarse y, ya sabes, dar algo de luz a diferentes estudiantes”.

Dijo que, como estudiante de ingeniería informática, le gustaría ver a Elon Musk como un

orador en el futuro.

Musk es un “empresario estadounidense nacido en Sudáfrica que fundó X.com en 1999 (que más tarde se convirtió en PayPal), SpaceX en 2002 y Tesla Motors en 2003”, según biography.com.

El evento también se transmitirá en vivo en el Salón Cassia en el campus de Brownsville. El evento está abierto al público y la entrada es gratuita.

Los estudiantes, el profesorado y el personal deben traer sus identificaciones. Las puertas para estudiantes de UTRGV se abrirán a las 7 p.m. y a las 7:15 p.m. para el público.

MARINE
Continued from Page 1

music hits from the last five decades.
“The brass band is our contemporary brass ensemble, consisting of tuba, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drum set,” said David Corderman staff sergeant and small ensemble leader of the Marine

Band. “We are happy to be here. We are happy to tell the Marine Corps story and represent the Marine Corps through music.”
Besides performing synchronized drills and playing music that highlights New Orleans’ famous music style, band members also interacted with the audience. After every two songs, members took a small break to answer any questions regarding the

Marines.
Josh Rodriguez, a music senior, said he was impressed by UTRGV for bringing artists from San Diego, California, and hopes the university brings more musicians to perform for the students.
“It was a really great performance,” Rodriguez said. “It’s really cool to see them bring something like this down here ... because we don’t really

get this opportunity. Being so far down south we don’t get to see any kind of professional groups.”
According to the official Marines website, “the primary mission of Marine Band San Diego is to support the Recruit Training Regiment and other depot organizations.”
The Marine Band of San Diego has traveled all over the nation since its founding in

1921. Its reputation has allowed them to perform at professional sporting events, festivals and parades throughout the country.
“This is the very first time we have any of the military bands at UTRGV or at the Student Union,” Student Union Director Edna Zambrano said. “It was a very awesome concert and a very unique experience for the campus to be able to have them.”

SPEAKER
Continued from Page 1

with world-class leaders and lecturers.
“The objective is for the students to be exposed to these speakers in hopes to have our students, faculty, staff and community think about their own challenges or their own experiences,” Moya said. “And, hopefully, these speakers are able to encourage them to

overcome those challenges.”
She said the committee selected Carter because she would be able to bring insightful experience for theatre and costume design students.
“She will be hosting a master class with the theatre students, but it’s going to be a private master class,” Moya said.
Jorge Guerrero, a computer engineering senior, said Carter’s lecture would benefit different students.

“Specifically, theatre students that have some kind of major in costume design,” Guerrero said. “Or even just bringing her thoughts on how she got into the career and how she can express herself and, you know, give some light to different students.”
He said, as a computer engineering student, he would like to see Elon Musk as a speaker in the future.
Musk is a “South African-born American entrepreneur and

businessman who founded X.com in 1999 (which later became PayPal), SpaceX in 2002 and Tesla Motors in 2003,” according to biography.com.
The event will also be live streamed in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. The event is open to the public and admission is free.
Students, faculty and staff must bring their IDs. The doors for UTRGV students will open at 7 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. to the public.

CHESS
Continued from Page 1

since December.
“I don’t know what, but something changed in my life,” Belous said. “I [had a] super bad year, so I didn’t win, like, almost anything except in individual tournaments, but for UTRGV I played very well. So, this losing streak ended, thank God, and I started to study more and to spend more time playing chess and, yes, I managed to, like, from December to February, I won almost all my tournaments.”
During this period, Belous played in five tournaments

and placed first in four: the Cardinal Open in Columbus, Ohio; the Golden State Open in Concord, California; the ACC Club Championship in Austin; and the Los Angeles City College Winter Norm.
Asked what his mentality is like while playing chess Belous replied, “Usually I try to maybe even, like, kind of, get myself a little bit angry and aggressive, so it’s kind of opposite like in real life. It’s better if you are [a] nice person, you are friendly, but on the board, you have to behave different, like it’s a game. You have to trick your opponents. So, it’s not the right place to be nice.”
Belous said he practices at

least two hours each day to get to the level that he is at. To be elite, he said, it is ideal to play eight hours a day. However, too much practice can be harmful as well, according to Belous.
“Vladimir is a player who is able to trick opponents, set traps, but not simple traps, invisible traps,” Macieja said. “He plays very dynamic chess, which I like. He’s self-confident making moves and he has very good fighting spirit, so he always wants to perform at his best and I think these are some of his best characteristics.”
Macieja describes Belous as an offensive player who gains confidence through his

momentum.
“I think what Vladimir does is he fully concentrates on tournaments, especially if he plays well,” he said. “So, with every won game, he becomes more and more dangerous.”
Asked if he had a lucky charm or ritual that he performs before games, Belous replied that he prepares by scoping out the competition ahead of time to become more confident.
Belous has some advice for players who are starting their chess careers.
“Play chess and enjoy it,” he said. “It’s a very good game. Maybe not, like not in [a] professional way because it is very difficult and it’s

more difficult than it seems. ... But, just to play for fun, it’s a very good game and it’s like gymnastics for your brain.”
Belous said chess is a small representation of real life and has taught him many lessons that he can apply both on and off the board.
“I mean, there are some pluses and minuses,” he said. “But, there are many pluses. For instance, chess is like a small representation of real life, so if I made a mistake in chess and I analyze my game ... I will try not to repeat the same mistake again.”
In Fall 2020, Belous plans to graduate and then pursue a master’s degree in accounting.

JAZZ
Continued from Page 3

“I feel very honored that UTRGV and this program invited us to play because I

feel like no other music could have been good for this event other than jazz,” Chapa said.
Asked why it was important to incorporate jazz music at the event, he

replied, “I just think it’s very culturally appropriate. Especially, since back in the beginning of jazz, even now, it used to mainly be an African American art form, and it’s one of America’s truest art forms. I

think it was just perfect for this event.”
In March, the Leadership and Social Change program will host an event called, “The Taste of Korea,” which will familiarize students with Korean cuisine and culture.

RADIO
Continued from Page 3

Velez said.
“We all share a fondness for radio, but as far as the equipment goes, we don’t necessarily know how it all gets hooked up and all the steps that are involved in making sure that ... people can hear us,” he said.
Vaquero Radio plans to host events in the near future and will offer promotional items,

such as T-shirts. The staff will also reveal an upcoming surprise project.
“We’re working on a way to make it easier for people to tune in,” Velez said.
The project has been in the works for three semesters. With the grant money, the station has been able to finalize the project and it will be announced to the public by the end of the first week in March, Zarate said.
“To be finalizing the details

for this project is super thrilling,” she said.
The project is expected to provide Vaquero Radio exposure to the community. With this exposure, the station wants to give back to its listeners.
“I hope for staff members, and us as a whole department, to further branch out into the community,” Zarate said. “We want to give back and to students, faculty and

community members.”
According to The College Radio Foundation website, there were three \$1,000 station grants and two \$2,000 station grants.
To qualify for a grant, The College Radio Foundation requires applicants to host College Radio Day. Last year, UTRGV Radio held this event on the Edinburg quad, hosting local bands and offering giveaways.

“It’s just a way to raise awareness about College Radio,” Velez said.
Erik Guajardo, a criminal justice junior, said he will start hearing Vaquero Radio to know about campus news.
“I think having a radio in general is, well, for most places is very beneficial. You get public information out there,” Guajardo said.
To listen to Vaquero Radio, visit utrgradio.com.

SUSTAINABILITY
Continued from Page 3

be passionate about their cause,” she said. “And to convey that as effectively as possible, to not only the college population or college campus community, but also to the outside community.”
After completing the one-year program, the nine students are expected to become ambassadors of sustainability and raise awareness in their community.
“Even if they leave the [Rio Grande] Valley, wherever they go, ... they become champions for sustainability in the world,” Grewal said.
The Student Leadership Program is

considered a pilot project, since it is the first time it has been launched.
“We are piloting this project with this core group of nine students ... that make up this first cohort,” Bhat said. “And then we will look at this very closely going into the fall, and, perhaps, expand this leadership component to other special groups of students as well.”
Sustainability Fellows was created in Spring 2019 by Grewal.
The goal of the program is for these nine students to enhance sustainability at UTRGV and in the outside community, Grewal said.
Upon applying for graduate school, students can apply to be a Sustainability Fellow. After filling out

the application form, students must write a statement of interest. The Office of Sustainability will evaluate each application and select the students who best fit the program.
“I just encourage students to learn about sustainability before they apply for the program,” he said.
Castellano, a graduate student and band director at Sharyland Pioneer High School, chose to combine his passion for music and sustainability for his project “From Seed to Harvest: The Pedagogical and Cognitive Development of Percussion Students from Beginner through University Graduate.”
“My project currently has to do with, kind of, figuring out systematic

flaws, or issues, or areas, that we can improve within our local music departments or music areas, kind of, in general,” he said.
Asked how the Sustainability Student Leadership Program benefits the UTRGV community, Castellano replied, “This, directly, is very impactful because the type of influence that it will have on not only, you know, the person involved, like ... us as fellows, but the ripples that it’ll create to affect our friends ... people that are involved in other majors, other undergrads or graduate students ... get them involved as well, as far as the ideology behind trying to help people ... our environment and our community.”

A week of *fiesta*!



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Carla Saenz Martinez, wife of former Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez, and Marsella Huerta de López, wife of Matamoros Mayor Mario Alberto López Hernández, exchange gifts last year during the Hands Across the Border ceremony at the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville.

Maleny Ortega

THE RIDER

Charreada, a tradition that began in 2016, will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Brownsville Student Union lawn and will feature a jalapeño-eating contest, themed decorations and other activities.

The purpose of the Charreada, which is hosted by Student Activities, is to accompany the Charro Days celebrations that started with Baile del Sol Street Dance last Saturday in downtown Brownsville.

“At the time, it was to bring UTRGV and [Texas Southmost College] together,” said Maria Almanza, student program adviser for Student Activities. “I know it’s a very significant event for the students of UTRGV, particularly

those in Brownsville, just because it helps bring inclusion and it helps them celebrate the culture at the Brownsville campus.”

In the past, 200 to 300 students have attended the Charreada and this year, Almanza expects more.

“This year the time was also moved by an hour,” she said. “Last year it was 3 to 6 p.m. This year it’s from 4 to 7 p.m. in hopes that more students will be available to actually participate in the Charreada.”

Departments that will be present at the Charreada include the Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention (OVAVP), UREC, the Department of Housing and Residence Life, the Student Union and the Superhero Project initiative.

“I really hope that the public comes out and enjoys Charreada,” Almanza

said. “I just hope professors let students go out and enjoy the event since it is, you know, a culturally significant event.”

Mr. Amigo

In conjunction with the Charro Days celebration is the recognition of Mr. Amigo, a Mexican citizen who symbolizes the unity between the United States and Mexico.

The Mr. Amigo tradition began in the early 1960s with a small group of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce leaders, according to Graciela Salazar, vice president for the Mr. Amigo Association.

“They wanted to discuss a way of promoting the relationships between the United States and Mexico,” Salazar said. “That was kind of the original purpose.”

This year’s Mr. Amigo will be Julio César Chávez, a retired professional Mexican boxer.

“Julio César Chávez is a true champion in the ring and in life,” Salazar read from a letter from Mr. Amigo President Artemio Alvarez. “His first fight earned him 150 pesos and gave every cent to his mother. Later on Sept. 13, 1984 he won his first of many world championship titles and as promised, he bought his mom a house. Those acts of kindness are what champions are all about.”

Salazar said that was the reason the Mr. Amigo president chose him.

In 1964, Miguel Alemán Valdés, former president of Mexico, was named the first Mr. Amigo.

The Mr. Amigo festivities begin with the Hands Across the Border event, which will start at 10 a.m. Friday.

Later, Mr. Amigo will be present at the Lunch at the City and in the evening at the President’s Costume Ball, where La Sonora Santanera will play.

At 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Mr. Amigo will be at the Walk of Fame at Linear Park. From there, he will go to the

Grand International Parade, which starts at 1 p.m.

Unlike previous years, Mr. Amigo will not appear at the Texas Southmost College campus.

According to Raul Garza, a former Mr. Amigo Association president, the reason for this is a shorter schedule. Mr. Amigo usually arrives on a Wednesday, but this year he will arrive on Thursday.

Salazar said the goal of having a Mr. Amigo is to celebrate the shared culture, friendship and family of Brownsville and Matamoros.

“We want people, not just here locally, but in other places of the world to know that there’s a really good relationship here between Brownsville and Matamoros,” she said. “We want to be an example for other cities, for other countries.”

Salazar said the association is excited and believes it will be a great year.

“We were able to select and to bring to Brownsville someone like Julio César Chávez,” she said. “He’s one of the greatest sports figures in Mexico. ... We’re just very excited to see the response of the public.”

Charro Days Fiesta

Other events that will be hosted in Brownsville by Charro Days Fiesta include:

--Charro Days Art Contest, which will take place Tuesday at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts;

--Brownsville Independent School District Children’s Charro Days Parade, which will take place at 2:30 p.m. Thursday;

--Noche Mexicana, which will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. Thursday at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. Admission is \$35;

--Illuminated Night Parade, which will take place at 7 p.m. Friday;

--Charro Days Fiesta Costume Ball,

See CHARROS, Page 10

Confirmed COVID-19 case in Texas

Victor G. Ramirez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A state health services official said there is a low risk of the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) spreading to the general population even though there is a confirmed case in Texas.

The confirmed case is among the people under quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, according to a news release from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Emilie Prot, regional medical director for the Texas Department of State Health Services, said there is a low risk of COVID-19 spreading.

“They’re all on the Air Force base of Lackland, so they’re not in the general population,” Prot said. “People should not be afraid of going out or eating at a Chinese restaurant or, you know, it’s not about discrimination of race or the way the person looks.”

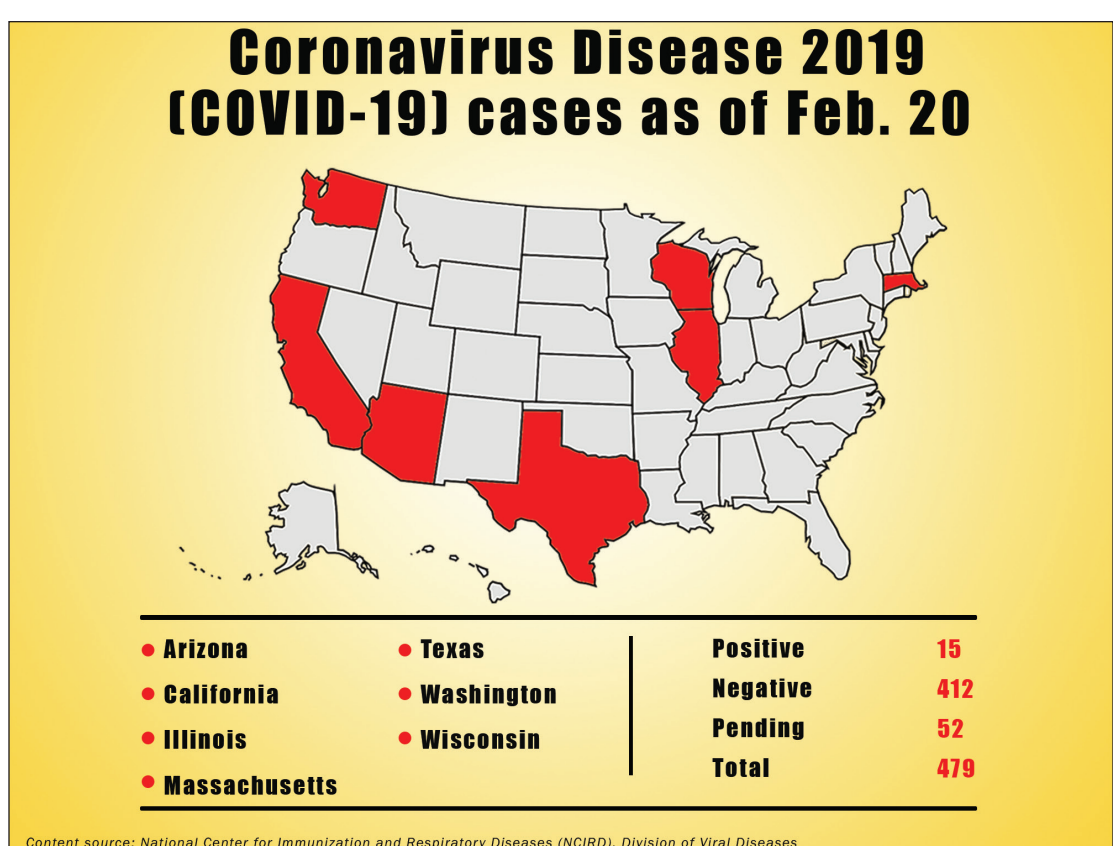
Asked why Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland was chosen to hold people in quarantine, Prot replied, “They’re under federal jurisdiction. So, right

now, all of the bases, there’s one in California, so all of them are federal bases, so it’s either Air Force, military. ... The CDC has jurisdiction there on the federal grounds and since the president declared the public health emergency, they’re allowed to issue that quarantine order and only on there, where they have authority.”

There are 15 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S., including the one in Texas, according to a Feb. 13 news release from the CDC.

“All people who lived or traveled in Hubei Province, China, are considered at high risk of having been exposed to this virus and are subject to a temporary 14-day quarantine upon entry into the United States,” the news release states. “This is the first person under quarantine at [Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland] who had symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. The individual is currently isolated and receiving medical care at a designated hospital nearby.”

On Feb. 16, the U.S. State Department brought back to the United States 300 American citizens and their



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

immediate family members who had been aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship, according to a news release

from the federal agency.

The cruise ship docked at the Japanese port of Yokohama, according to the Princess

website.

“During the evacuation

See CORONAVIRUS, Page 10

FESTIBA goes green

Paulina Longoria

A&E REPORTER

This week, FESTIBA 2020, following its theme of building a better world, will bring concerts, art exhibits, literary readings and panel discussions involving research and important sustainability issues.

“The goal of FESTIBA is to promote literacy, to celebrate the cultural arts,” said Dahlia Guerra, UTRGV assistant vice president for Public Art. “It’s about representing our culture, our region and our student body.”

Last Saturday, the Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA) kicked off with the South Texas Literacy Symposium in the Ballroom of the Edinburg campus.

The panel discussed this year’s topic, which is sustainability and environmental awareness, and what the public can do to reverse ecological damage.

“Every year, we choose a topic to research and to discuss that has a significant impact,” Guerra said.

Today’s schedule of activities center on Sustainable Food Day. The Environmental Awareness Club will promote healthy habits to the community with the sale of organic vegetables harvested by farmers and other utility products in their Farmer’s Market, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the East lawn of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

After the Farmer’s Market, the university will host three guest speakers



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

UTRGV Mariachi Ensemble guitar members mariachi senior Rodolfo De Santiago (from left), music education sophomore Ethan Villarreal and music education freshman Miguel Aguirre rehearse for Festiba 2020 Mariachi Festival Tuesday afternoon in the Mariachi Rehearsal Room, located in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Invited guests include internationally renowned José Hernández and Mariachi Sol de México.

in the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater: Angelita Garcia, owner of Angie’s Apothecary, will present “The Case for a Plant-Based Diet” from 3 to 3:50 p.m.; Thomas Padilla, owner of the Hour Farm, “Sustainable Farm Technology-Past, Present, Future,” 4 to 4:50 p.m.; and Alexis Racelis, director of UTRGV’s Agroecology Program, “The Truth About the Conventional Food

System,” 5 p.m.

Guerra said the festival is “a way of uniting our campus and our community in a common focus, a common research.”

Tuesday is Words + Pictures Group Comics Day, in which four academic panels and information sessions on comics will be featured.

In the first panel, art Lecturer Brian Dick and art Associate Professor Donald

Jerry Lyles will present “Jack Kirby: Creator of Better Worlds” at 11 a.m. in Visual Arts Building 1.227.

The other three panel discussions will take place in University Library Room 3.117: creative writing Associate Professor Jean Braithwaite, art Assistant Professors Paul Valadez and Jing Zhang and student Sabrina De La Rosa will present “The Future of Comic Studies in the RGV” from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; theatre Professor David Carren, “A Comic in the Twilight Zone,” 2 p.m.; research and instruction Librarian Carlton Nelson and master’s of fine arts graduate students, “Utopia/Dystopia: The Confusing Development of Community in ‘Ghost in the Shell,’” 3:30 p.m.

The Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools (CHAPS) will present a sneak preview of its ongoing research over ancient landscapes of the Rio Grande Valley from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Science building 2.507.

Denice Frohman, a New York City poet, performer and educator and a former Women of the World Poetry Slam Champion, will speak at 6 p.m. Wednesday and 11 a.m. Thursday in the Education Complex’s Borderlands Room.

UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán will perform in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Afterward, the film “Una Última y Nos Vamos,” by Mexican

See FESTIBA, Page 10

A bilingual and bicultural exhibit



Fernando Ramirez/THE RIDER

Poet and creative writing Professor Steven Schneider stands in front of a temporary display of his and artist Reefka Schneider’s work in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The Schneiders collaborated on a book titled, “The Magic of Mariachi,” and some of its artwork and poetry will be on display Thursday as part of FESTIBA.

Paulina Longoria

A&E REPORTER

“The Magic of Mariachi/ La Magia del Mariachi” is a bilingual exhibit that opens this week in the Performing Arts Complex as part of the Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA).

The exhibit consists of 24 pastel paintings of Mariachi musicians and *Folklorico* dancers created by artist Reefka Schneider. Twenty-

four text panels will feature the poems written in English by her husband, Steven Schneider, a creative writing professor, and translated into Spanish by UTRGV Associate Professor Edna Ochoa.

“The poems tell stories about the musicians and how their lives have been transformed and changed through playing Mariachi music,” Steven Schneider said.

He specified that some of the paintings are based on

members of the Mariachi Aztlán at UTRGV, and others are of professional musicians.

Schneider researched the history of Mariachi so that anyone that comes to visit the exhibit will learn about Mariachi’s background and history. Some of the greatest performers in this genre featured in the poems are Laura Sobrino, Lola Beltrán, José Alfredo Jiménez, Pedro Infante and some of the most famous Mariachi ensembles.

“We wanted the culture

of Mexico and the language of Spanish to be part of the exhibit and part of the book,” Schneider said.

The Schneiders attended Mariachi Aztlán’s concerts and rehearsals over the last several years and they became inspired by them.

One of the main themes of the exhibit “is the empowerment that student musicians gain from playing Mariachi music, in terms of learning teamwork, self-discipline and skills of performance,” Steven Schneider said.

Another important theme they wanted to emphasize is that more women are becoming involved in Mariachi music and the number of all-women Mariachi ensembles is increasing. This evolves from the fact that Mariachi music has been historically played only by men.

“On the cover of our book we put a female Mariachi trumpet player to make the point that today ... women have an important role to play not only in Mariachi but other leadership positions around the world,” Steven Schneider said.

The process they used to create the book is ekphrasis. Reefka Schneider explained that “it’s a long tradition of poets responding to works of art.”

She created many paintings, and Steven Schneider chose 24 that he related to, that he had a story or poem to tell.

The Schneiders are familiar with this process as they

have collaborated together before in the creation of the book “Borderlines: Drawing Border Lives” and also translated into Spanish as “Fronteras: Dibujando las vidas fronterizas.”

Reefka Schneider explained the differences between the two exhibits. She mostly used charcoal in “Borderlines.” For “The Magic of Mariachi,” she wanted to focus on color. Her main goal was to paint pure colors to bring out the joy and passion of the music.

Dahlia Guerra, assistant vice president of Public Art at UTRGV, wrote an introduction for “The Magic of Mariachi” book.

“Since I’ve been involved with the Mariachi for 30 years, of course it gives me great pleasure to see that much effort and talent has been put into this beautiful exhibit which features Mariachi musicians,” Guerra said.

The exhibit coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Mariachi program at UTRGV.

FESTIBA was established in 2006 to promote the importance of literacy, culture and the arts to students, parents, educators and community members throughout the Rio Grande Valley, according to the UTRGV website.

The opening reception for “The Magic of Mariachi” exhibit will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex lobby. Admission is free.

Sports for everyone

Aldo Nava

SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV University Recreation in Edinburg and the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville have intramural sports opportunities available for the 2020 spring semester. "It's a good way to relieve a little stress," said Arturo Cabrera, UREC Coordinator for Competitive Sports & Camps. "A lot of these players, especially the ones straight out of high school ... still want to compete. They have that competitive edge in them, and they just want to try to continue their active lifestyle."

Both facilities have different procedures to sign up, schedules for registration and playtimes.

Edinburg

Intramural events are open to all UTRGV students. It is also open to faculty, staff and alumni with a UREC membership on the Edinburg campus.

The recreation center in Edinburg will offer registration for session two beginning today through March 26. It will host a captain's meeting Friday March 27 at 5 p.m.



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

UTRGV criminal justice sophomore Aaron Salinas (center) goes for a layup during an intramural 5x5 basketball game last Tuesday at the UREC on the Edinburg campus. 5x5 basketball is available Spring 2020 during session two.

in the UREC second floor conference room.

For the second session, sports available are 6x6 volleyball, softball, 5x5 flag football and tennis, which will be offered for play starting March 30 through April 23.

UREC will also host tournaments for racquetball, kickball, badminton and a rock-climbing competition.

Brownsville

Intramural events are open to UTRGV students enrolled in at least one credit hour

in Brownsville and all TSC students. UTRGV and TSC faculty, staff and alumni with a Rec Center membership can also register.

The recreation center in Brownsville has league registration open for handball

and volleyball until March 26.

Registration is also open for tournaments such as racquetball until April 1 and flag football until April 15.

Agnelia Tiffany Hernandez, TSC Recreation Center's coordinator of Intramural Sports, said UTRGV and TSC are involved in extramural sports.

"We are part of the South Texas Championship Series, which is a committee where Texas Southmost College, UTRGV, [Texas State Technical College] and [South Texas College] ... we're in this committee, and we host several extramural tournaments throughout the academic year," Hernandez said.

Students can register for play by creating an account on IMLeagues.com and then signing up for an intramural or extramural sport of choice.

Once signed up, students can form their own team or declare as a free agent to be selected by a team.

For more information about the UREC, go to utrgv.edu/urec. For more information on the TSC Recreation Center visit tsc.edu/index.php/recreation-center.html.

'Victory brings confidence' for men's soccer club



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Spanish junior Uriel Barraza (right) dribbles past international business junior Missael Lara at the UTRGV Men's Soccer Club practice Tuesday night.



Civil engineering senior Miguel Mateos (left) and mathematics senior Gerron Dewberry face off during last Tuesday's UTRGV Men's Soccer Club practice on the soccer field behind the UREC building on the Edinburg campus.

Angel De La Cruz

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's Soccer Club emerged victorious Feb. 15 with a 3-0 win over University of The Incarnate Word, before facing Trinity University last Saturday in San Antonio.

As of press time results were unavailable.

Soccer club president Alejandro Garcia said the team's victory against UIW showed its hard work.

"This victory reflects the hard work that all the players have put since the beginning of the semester," Garcia said. "Not only the players, but also the coaching staff. The time ... the hours that they have put into going to practice

... we just need to keep working hard to get the next victory."

UTRGV overcame its opponent.

"The team did great," he said. "They were able to adapt."

Nevertheless, Garcia said the team has some work to do.

"There has to be better communication between the players," he said. "We need to play faster, but that would come as we keep practicing and also playing more games."

New members, such as forward Edrei Barbosa, were able to obtain some minutes during the game against UIW.

"Since I was a kid, I've been playing soccer," Barbosa said in Spanish. "So, I'm glad that this gives us a chance to keep doing what we love."

"Since I was a kid, I've been playing soccer. So, I'm glad that this gives us a chance to keep doing what we love."

**Edrei Barbosa
Forward**

He was inches away from scoring his first goal when the ball hit one of the goal posts.

Head Coach Hugo Zuñiga said he knows what this victory can do for the team.

"This victory brings confidence to the team," Zuñiga said in Spanish. "It's about trusting the process and it's

always good to start on the right foot. It gives you a good feeling and it just makes you want to keep going and do things the right way."

He said he is looking forward to the team's match against Texas State University at 3 p.m. Saturday on the soccer field behind the UREC in Edinburg. This will be the club's first home game.

"We respect every university we're playing against and Texas State is not any different," Zuñiga said. "They also know how to play soccer. ... They're very physical. Therefore, the faster we get the ball across into their field, ... we might get them into a little trouble. ... It would be a good strategy to have control over the ball so they don't have the opportunity to score."

FIESTA
Continuación de Página 5

Mr. Amigo, la razón de esto es un horario más corto. El Mr. Amigo generalmente llega un miércoles, pero este año llegará el jueves.

Salazar dijo que el objetivo de tener un Mr. Amigo es celebrar la cultura compartida, la amistad y la familia de Brownsville y Matamoros.

“Queremos que la gente, no solo aquí a nivel local, sino en otros lugares del mundo sepa que hay una relación realmente buena aquí entre Brownsville y Matamoros”, dijo ella.

“Queremos ser un ejemplo para otras ciudades, para otros países”.

Salazar dijo que la asociación está entusiasmada y cree que será un gran año.

“Pudimos seleccionar y traer a Brownsville a alguien como Julio César Chávez”, dijo ella. “Es una de las figuras deportivas más grandes de México. ... Estamos muy emocionados de ver la respuesta del público”.

Fiesta del Día del Charro

Otros eventos que serán organizados en Brownsville por las fiestas del Día del Charro incluyen:

--Concurso de Arte del Día

del Charro, que tendrá lugar el martes en el Museo de Bellas Artes de Brownsville;

--Desfile del Día del Charro del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Brownsville, que tendrá lugar el jueves a las 2:30 p.m.;

--Noche Mexicana, que tendrá lugar el jueves de 6 a 11 p.m. en el Auditorio Jacob Brown en el campus de Texas Southmost College. La entrada cuesta \$35;

--Desfile Nocturno Iluminado, que tendrá lugar el viernes a las 7 p.m.;

--Baile de Disfraces del Día del Charro, que tendrá lugar

a partir de las 8 p.m. hasta la medianoche del sábado en el Auditorio Jacob Brown. La entrada cuesta \$30;

--Desfile de Guardia de Color, que tendrá lugar el sábado a las 12:30 p.m en la calle Elizabeth;

--Gran Desfile Internacional, que tendrá lugar el sábado a la 1 p.m. en la calle Elizabeth; y

--Carnaval del Día del Charro, que estará abierto desde el jueves hasta el 8 de marzo en el Centro Internacional de Tecnología, Educación y Comercio de TSC en 301 Mexico Blvd.

Según Rosendo Escareño,

director ejecutivo de las Fiestas del Día del Charro, el Gran Desfile Internacional es el evento con más asistencia. Cerca de 75,000 personas asisten al desfile.

“Hay tantas personas involucradas en el desfile”, dijo Escareño. “Muchas familias vienen a ver a sus hijos y sus amigos y es ... realmente hermoso”.

Él cree que las fiestas del Día del Charro es la época más festiva del año para Brownsville.

“Ven y trae a tu familia y disfruta de toda la semana de festividades”, dijo Escareño.

CHARROS
Continued from Page 7

which will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the Jacob Brown Auditorium. Admission is \$30;

--Color Guard Parade, which will take place at 12:30 p.m. Saturday on

Elizabeth Street;

--Grand International Parade, which will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday on Elizabeth Street; and

--Charro Days Carnival which will be open from Thursday until March 8 at the TSC International Technology, Education and Commerce Center at

301 Mexico Blvd.

According to Rosendo Escareño, executive director for Charro Days Fiesta, the Grand International Parade is the event with the most attendance. About 75,000 people attend the parade.

“There’s so many people involved in the parade,” Escareño said. “A lot of

families come and see their children and their friends and it’s ... really beautiful.”

He believes Charro Days is the most festive time of the year for Brownsville.

“Come and bring your families and enjoy the whole week of festivities,” Escareño said.

CORONAVIRUS
Continued from Page 7

process, after passengers had disembarked the ship and initiated transport to the airport, U.S. officials received notice that 14 passengers, who had been tested 2-3 days earlier, had tested positive for COVID-19,” the news release states. “These individuals were moved in the most expeditious and safe manner to a specialized containment area on the evacuation aircraft to isolate them in accordance with standard protocols.”

Passengers were separated into two bases, Travis Air Force Base in California and Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and will remain in quarantine for 14 days, according to the new release.

“Every precaution to ensure proper isolation and community protection measures are being taken, driven by the most up-to-date risk assessments by U.S. health authorities,” the document states. “We continue all possible efforts to protect the welfare of U.S. citizens.”

The novel coronavirus was first detected Dec. 31, 2019, in

Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and there have been 15 confirmed cases, 412 negative and 52 pending in the U.S., as of last Thursday, according to the CDC’s website.

Dr. Jose Campo Maldonado, an assistant professor of internal medicine for the UTRGV School of Medicine, said although it is an epidemic it is not a local one.

“Avoid any type of misinformation or panic and understand how to protect yourself from the viruses, and generally, respiratory viruses, including the ones that are circulating right now in the

community,” Maldonado said.

According to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) website, recommendations to reduce exposure to and transmission of illnesses include hand and respiratory hygiene and safe food practices, including:

--clean hands by using rubbing alcohol or soap and water;

--cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing and sneezing;

--avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough; and

--consumption of raw animal products should be avoided.

As reported by The Rider on Feb. 10, UTRGV has suspended all university-related travels to China as of Jan. 31 due to the novel coronavirus outbreak being declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by WHO, according to an email sent to the university community.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Pablo Mendez said last Thursday, the suspension will not be lifted until further notice.

For more information and updates about COVID-19, visit dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

FESTIBA
Continued from Page 8

director Noe Santillan-Lopez, will be screened at 7:30 p.m.

The movie is about a Mariachi group that leaves its hometown to perform at a national competition in Mexico City. As a group of seven, they need another member to compete and they recruit a rock musician.

During the 10th annual International Book Discussion, students from the Oxford School of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and St. Matthew’s Episcopal School of Edinburg will discuss “The First Rule of Punk” and interview via Skype its author, Celia C. Perez at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in the City of Edinburg’s Dustin M. Sekula Memorial Library.

Vietnam veterans Beto Conde and Alejo Garcia will read selections from their books and discuss their time during and after the war from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Thursday in the Education Complex’s Borderlands Room. Conde is the author of “We Were Raza” (2017) and “Memories in Green: A Mind’s Fifty Year Journey from Drafted to PTSD” (2019). Garcia is the author of “Where the Mesquite Tree Grows” (2018).

On the Brownsville campus, undergraduate students in the Rhetoric and Composition I class will present their experiences about learning Spanish on the South Texas border. Monica Reyes, a Writing and Language Studies lecturer, will host this event from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in Music, Science & Learning Center 1.112.

The first Friday event will be the presentation, “The Impact of Science Fiction in Novels and Films to Science Fact.” John Ferris, research and instruction librarian, will present the discussion about the influence of science fiction in books, films and real-life science developments from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Brownsville Library 1.118.

UTRGV Productions will present the musical, “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre, located in Liberal Arts

Building South on the Edinburg campus.

As part of the FESTIBA 2020 Mariachi Festival, UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán and Mariachi Juvenil Aztlán will share the stage with Grammy-award winner Aida Cuevas at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

The performance is part of the daylong Mariachi Festival Workshop, Competition and Concerts. Hundreds of students from across the nation will attend workshops on mariachi repertoire, performance practices and mariachi style with renowned mariachi educators, according to the FESTIBA program.

“The fact that all kids have a chance to meet all these mariachi professionals, you cannot find better mariachis at this level,” said Francisco Loera, a Music Department senior lecturer and co-director of UTRGV Mariachi. “They get to meet them, they get to ask them questions ... they get to learn from them.”

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán will perform with guest artists Mariachi Sol de Mexico de José Hernandez in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Bilingual education senior Giselle Sanchez is a member of Mariachi Aztlán. “I think it’s amazing. ... We don’t get these types of opportunities often,” Sanchez said about performing with guest artists. “It’s awesome to know that our university is able to provide ... concerts like these.”

The UTRGV Dance program will host a Dance Adjudication Festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in Health and Physical Education Building II with a panel composed of renowned choreographers, dancers, scholars and/or artists from the U.S. and Mexico, according to the FESTIBA program.

For more information visit, utrgv.edu/festiba.

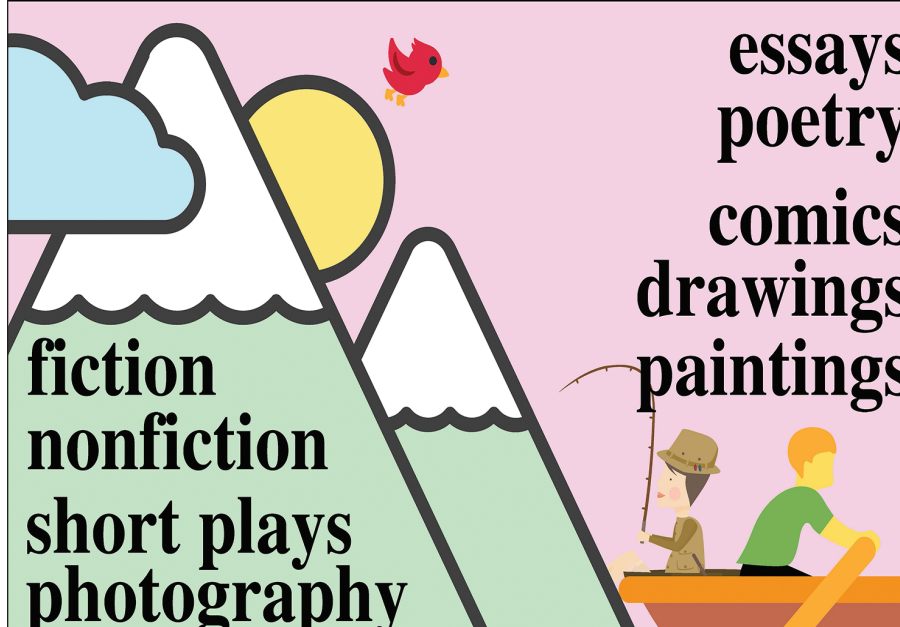
“It is a weeklong event,” Dahlia Guerra said. “I hope that there’s something for everyone and that you can find something interesting that will appeal to you as a reader or as someone who is interested in FESTIBA.”

GALLERY

a literary & arts magazine

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nonfiction
short plays
photography


essays
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2020

Sombrero Festival

during Charro Days

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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 27

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 28

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 29



MAIN STAGE

4:45PM
6:30PM
8:30PM
10:30PM

The Roaches
Eric y Su Grupo
Massore
Elefante
Los Invasores
De Nuevo Leon

MAIN STAGE

2:45PM
4:00PM
6:00PM
8:00PM
10:30PM

Army Band
Amos De
La Noche
Beatlemania64
Masizzo
Los Tigres
Del Norte

MAIN STAGE

5:00PM
6:30PM
7:50PM
9:10PM
10:10PM
11:10PM

Grito Contest
Shelly Lares
Chente Barrera
Ram Herrera
Adalberto Gallegos
Jay Perez

BIG TENT

6:00PM
8:00PM
10:30PM

Rob Gracia
Band
The Overtones
Queen Nation

BIG TENT

12:00PM
3:30PM
5:30PM
7:30PM
10:00PM

DJ Edward
Chris Rivera
Band
Rockstar Denied
Lauren Corzine
Lon Duk Don

BIG TENT

12:00PM
2:00PM
3:30PM
5:00PM
8:00PM
10:00PM

Kane Alvarado
Beatlemania64
Tim Gonzalez
Army Band
Wreckless Texas
Back in Black AC/DC

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1PM THURSDAY
11AM FRIDAY
7AM SATURDAY

ALSO UNDER THE BIG TENT

FRIDAY
9:30pm Chili Cook-Off Winners Announced
SATURDAY
6:00pm Frijolympics Winners Announced

ADULT EVENTS

9:30am, 11am & 12pm - Tug O'War
Noon - Waiters Race
1pm - Hat Stack Relay
2pm - Tortilla Frisbee Toss
2:30pm - Taco Eating Contest

3pm - Hot Wing Eating Contest
4pm - Jalapeno Eating Contest
5pm - Grito Contest
6:45pm - Beard & Costume Contests



For Full Event Schedule & to Purchase Tickets, Please visit our website:
www.SombreroFestival.com