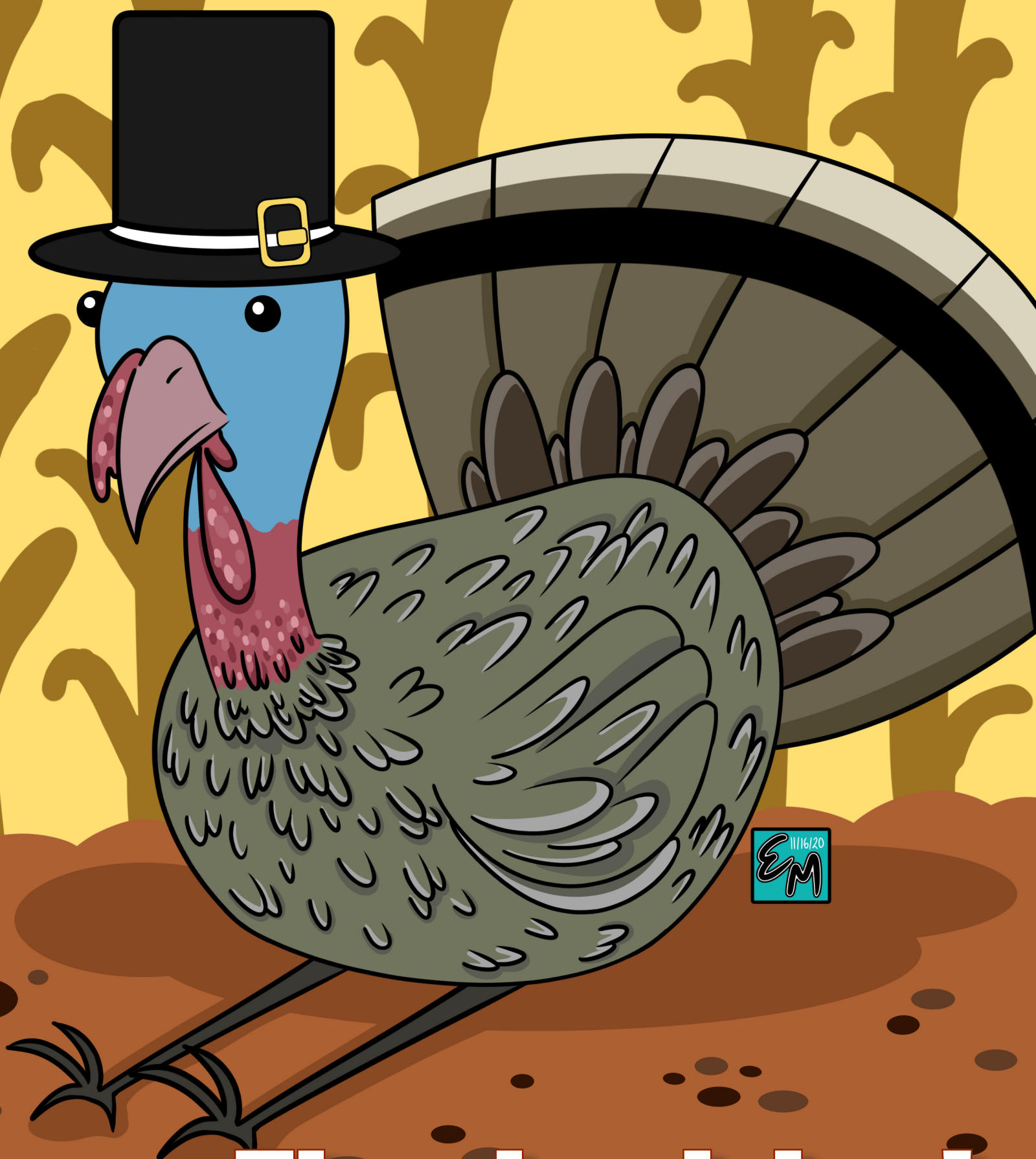


THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY



Happy Thanksgiving!

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. A PDF copy of the newspaper can be accessed online at utrgvrider.com. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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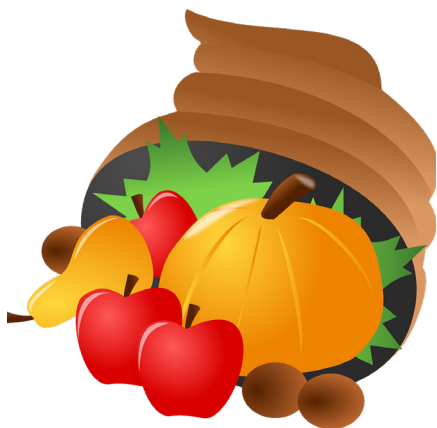
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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Lip Sync Battle

The **Campus Activities Board** will accept video submissions until Friday of students **lip syncing** to songs. Students can tag **Campus Activities Board** on **Instagram** or **TikTok** for a chance to win a Polaroid camera. The video with the most “likes” wins. For more information, email CAB@utrgv.edu.

Tuesday Favorite Book to Movie

Students can share their favorite movie adaptation of a book and their favorite part in the book and movie with the **Student Union** at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Wednesday Luncho Libre: Sci-Fi Edition

John Ferris, a research and instruction librarian, will present hypothetical possibilities that are now reality in the **University Library's Luncho Libre: Sci-Fi Edition** lecture. The event will take place from noon to 12:45 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

E.P.I.C. Arts & Crafts

Engaging Peers in College will host **E.P.I.C. Arts & Crafts** from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom. Students can use supplies

they have at home to create **fall-themed arts and crafts**. For a unique project, use balloons and rice. RSVP is available on VLink.

Ask the Career Center

Students can discuss **resumes, job search strategies, internships and interviews, etc.**, with the **Career Center** staff from 2:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday via Zoom. Register on **Handshake** or email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

Graduate College Townhall

Desirae Smith, a **Student Government Association** senator for the Graduate College, will discuss **graduate college topics**, receive student input and provide information about the **SGA** from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting ID: 655 070 7368.

Thursday Marsha P. Johnson

Students can learn about the legacy of Black transgender activist **Marsha P. Johnson** at noon via Zoom. Registration is available on VLink. The event is part of the **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center's People Series**.

Disney Trivia

In observance of **National Princess Day** and **Mickey Mouse Day**, the **Student Union** will host a **Disney Trivia**

contest at 2 p.m. via Zoom. Students can test their knowledge of Disney movies. The winner will receive a prize. RSVP is available on VLink.

Graphic Thoughts

The **University Library Research and Instruction** department will host a discussion on graphic novels, cartoons and other aspects of pop culture in its series, **Graphic Thoughts**, from 5 to 6 p.m. RSVP is available on VLink.

Friday

Among Us

Students can play **Among Us** at 6 p.m. via Zoom and win VBucks. RSVP is available on VLink. For more information, email the **Campus Activities Board** at CAB@utrgv.edu.

Thankful Friday

Students can share what they are thankful for on the **Student Union's** Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Saturday

Smash Bros. Tourney

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a **Super Smash Bros. tournament** at 5 p.m. Participants are required to create a free account on **Discord.com** and **Smash.gg** in order to compete. RSVP is available on VLink.

--Compiled by *Brigitte Ortiz*

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 4 and 8.

Nov. 4

8:09 a.m.: A staff member reported she lost her work portable radio on Nov. 3 after leaving it on a counter in the women's restroom on the fourth floor of

the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus. On Nov. 5, a UTRGV detective confirmed the radio was found by another staff member.

11:09 a.m.: An officer responded to Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus in reference to four individuals who had crossed the U.S. border fence. Three of the individuals were later apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol agents without incident. The fourth individual was not located. The three individuals, two male adults and one male juvenile, claimed to be from Mexico.

9:40 p.m.: A staff member reported that buttons were stolen from the north-side elevator panel in Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Nov. 5

12:20 p.m.: A faculty member reported losing three university-issued keys on Oct. 3 at his residence. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

2:25 p.m.: A faculty member reported losing three university-issued keys at her residence on Nov. 29, 2019. The report was generated for documentation purposes.

Nov. 7

7:54 a.m.: A subcontractor employee reported the catalytic converter was stolen from a rental truck while it was parked in the lot of the Community Engagement & Student Success building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

2:02 p.m.: An officer responded to an active alarm in the Dining Hall and Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. It was determined that a smoke detector sounded when staff attempted to clean the grill. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for reentry.

3:17 p.m.: An officer responded to Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus in reference to a faculty member who was stuck in an elevator.

The Edinburg Fire Department arrived and assisted in opening the elevator door. The faculty member was found to be OK. A work order was placed to have the elevator serviced.

3:45 p.m.: UTRGV Police Communications surveillance cameras showed several subjects jumping the U.S. border fence and running toward the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. Officers were dispatched to the location to find the subjects. U.S. Border Patrol agents later detained six males without incident. Three were from Mexico, one from Guatemala and two from Honduras.

8:09 p.m.: An officer observed the Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building, University Library and some interior campus lighting areas on the Edinburg campus were without power. The cooling plant staff was notified and extra patrol was posted for the areas. AEP Texas had reported issues in the area.

--Compiled by *Fernanda Figueroa*

Thanksgiving during COVID-19

Fernanda Figueroa

THE RIDER

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many UTRGV students' Thanksgiving celebrations will be different, with some changing their plans due to health and safety concerns.

For Laura Juarez, a mass communication senior, gatherings at her house usually involve 15 of her family members but this year that might change.

"Usually, my family and I, we always do [Thanksgiving] at my parents' house," Juarez said. "It's usually only my mom's side of the family. I don't know if the same amount of people are coming, usually it's like 15 people but hopefully it stays the same. I think if we do have the same amount of people we'll make sure that everybody has gotten tested so we don't spread [COVID-19]."

Despite the uncertainty around Thanksgiving plans, this year has made change a normal thing for Juarez, to the point where she sees it as "par for the course." Yet, she is looking on the bright side and reveling in the chance of a less stressful Thanksgiving.

"I think there's definitely an upside," Juarez said. "I could definitely save money and, like, the hassle of having to go to H-E-B. It's always stressful for my mom



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA JUAREZ

Mass communication senior Laura Juarez (standing, third from left) with her family during last year's Thanksgiving celebration. Members of her family include (from left) Ilianna Juarez, Audrey De La Garza, Arturo Guerra, Susie Garza and Roxie Gonzales.

as well because she makes the turkey and everything, so there's definitely a stress factor that would be reduced if we didn't have as many people over."

Mass communication senior Oscar Calvillo's Thanksgiving plans have changed, with his extended family not being able to visit due to his father testing

positive for COVID-19 and his whole family quarantining at home.

"My dad tested positive," Calvillo said. "[Our] Thanksgiving party will just be at home because there's no family over because we can't anymore, or not right now, at least."

See **CELEBRATION**, Page 7

Something to be thankful for

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

Despite this year being full of obstacles, new routines and hardships, five students share what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Leonardo Larraga, a business administration junior, said that he is thankful that his loved ones stayed healthy during the pandemic.

"We all stayed safe and united, so that's probably what I'm most thankful for," Larraga said.

Asked if his family has any holiday traditions, he replied, "Well, we always make pozole. That's, like, our thing. I don't know if any other family does it, but a pozole is a must for us. It's like our little twist on it."

Larraga said during Thanksgiving dinner, his family looks back on the year and gives thanks for the opportunities that were provided to them.

Nayeli Ruiz, a mass communication freshman, said her family also makes pozole on Thanksgiving.

Ruiz said she is thankful for being able to stay in her

home and not wake up early to go to school.

"I had to cross [the border] every day to go to school," she said. "It has been a huge relief not to wake up [at] 5 [or] 6 in the morning [and] cross the humongous line. So, yeah, I'm kind of grateful [for] not needing to cross."

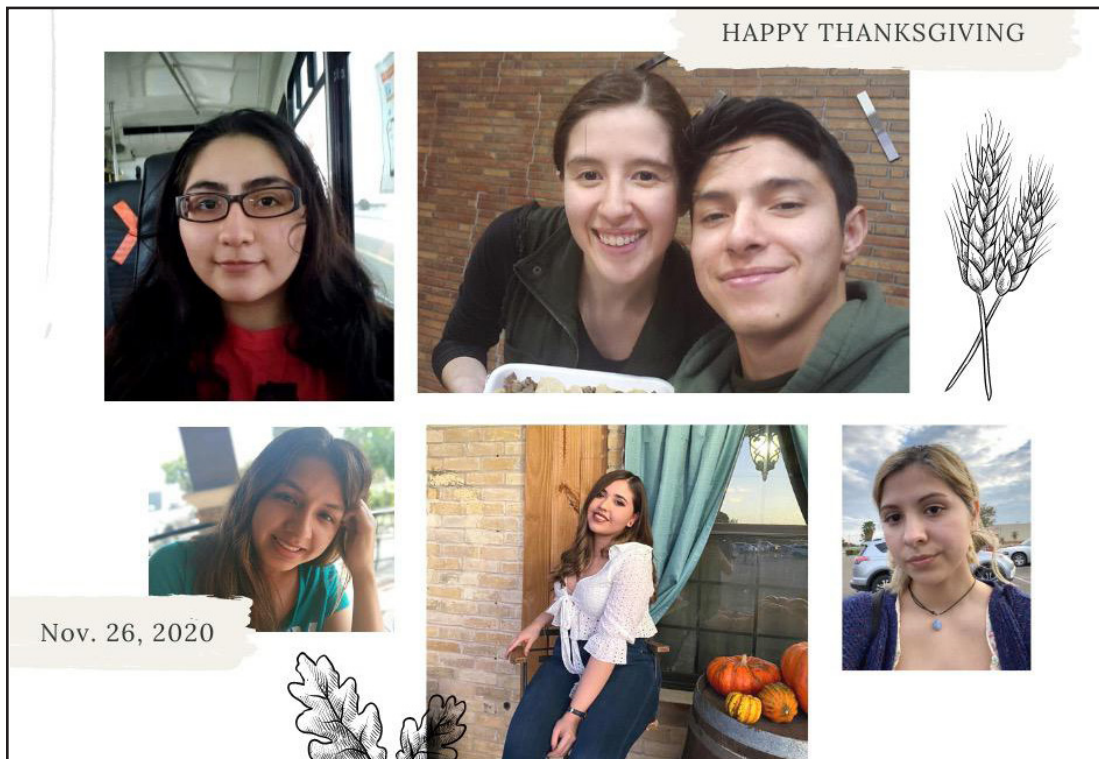
Michelle Martinez, a bilingual education senior, said she is thankful for the pandemic because it has shown people who they are.

"That's what I would say because there's been a lot of challenges, but if we're able to face them, it makes us stronger," Martinez said. "For a while, I lost my job so I applied for another job and I got it,

so I've been working ever since June and I'm very thankful for that."

Dariana Sagastegui, a civil engineering junior, said she is grateful to God for helping her stay strong and healthy during the pandemic.

"I'm also grateful to have a family that loves me, cheers me and that supports me every day to achieve my dreams," Sagastegui said. "My mom and my dad are the best



Top row: Mass communication freshman Nayeli Ruiz (from left), Larissa Larraga and business administration junior Leonardo Larraga Bottom row: Bilingual education senior Michelle Martinez, civil engineering junior Dariana Sagastegui and mass communication junior Karla Valenzuela

Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

ones I could ask for. They made me the woman who I am today and are always by my side."

She said her sister has been in quarantine with her and is the best partner she could ask for.

"I'm also grateful to have a boyfriend by my side that always helps me to achieve my best potential, that

loves me and makes me happy," Sagastegui said. "Also, I am grateful to work at the Leadership and Mentoring department here at UTRGV as a mentor and had been able to help first-year students and I made a lot of friends too."

Karla Valenzuela, a mass communication junior, said she is thankful for not struggling financially during the pandemic.

Valenzuela said she thinks Thanksgiving is a "weird" holiday to celebrate.

"I think considering the history of it, 'cause it's, like, in a way, celebrating colonialism, which is kind of looked down upon, considering the whole treatment of Native Americans," she said.

Food, family and awkward arguments Expert advice on how to deal with hostile conversations during the holidays

Jacqueline Peraza

THE RIDER

This holiday season, many students, staff and faculty may find themselves celebrating Thanksgiving in new ways amid the COVID-19 pandemic. However, those who will reunite with family might run into conflict when conversing about the year's events.

UTRGV Clinical Therapist Maria Alejandra Mazariegos offered the UTRGV community some tips to calm hostile Thanksgiving conversations with family members who might have differing political views.

"This is how I think of it, just because somebody puts a topic on the table doesn't mean you have to grab that topic," Mazariegos said. "So, if you are not comfortable talking about it, or you don't want to get into a debate, you don't have to pick that topic from the table."

She said if the topic is something that continues to be brought up, individuals can sit back and listen or simply remove themselves from the situation.

"Go outside, go to the restroom or try changing the topic," Mazariegos said. "If you don't want to get into a debate, you don't have to. You can avoid it."

Many times, avoiding a controversial topic is not always an easy thing to do with some families, she said.

"For some families debating or,

Avoiding Thanksgiving Feuds

1. Avoid topics you are not comfortable with.
2. Remove yourself from the discussion.
3. Change the subject.
4. Choose if you want to be engaged in the topic, or not.
5. Know your comfort levels.

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

you know, battles, is part of their holiday traditions," Mazariegos said. "It's just part of the dynamics during their holidays. However, we also know that can be really stressful. So, you're obviously not going to change your family dynamic this Thanksgiving, but you can be in control of what you, as an individual, decide to engage in. So, my advice would be if you want to engage, engage. ... If you choose not to engage,

there's many options for not engaging." Asked about neutral topics to speak about when trying to avoid conflict, she advises people to try to "go to town" with small talk.

"If somebody is bringing up a topic that is [something] you don't want to talk about, a really easy thing to do is to turn a question back around on them, like, 'Hey, tell me about your plans for Christmas. Tell me about how you've

been doing. Talk to me about you," Mazariegos said. "How are you doing? Are you eating? Are you sleeping? What do you do for fun?"

She also offered advice to anyone experiencing anxiety about upcoming holiday celebrations amid the pandemic.

"It's important to remember that once you're over 18, you're an adult," Mazariegos said. "So, you can make that choice to actually forgo in-person Thanksgiving. That may sound really, really drastic, but we have so much technology nowadays. There's no reason why you can't have your Thanksgiving meal wherever you feel safe, and video call your family members and have them put your phone or tablet at your place at the table. If you're going to go ahead and jeopardize your well-being, it's not worth it."

She believes setting those boundaries are part of caring for yourself and showing self-love.

"Before approaching this holiday season, take some time to individually think about where your comfort levels are at," Mazariegos said. "Ask yourself, 'How comfortable am I with distance, with time, with location and with certain people?' Not only for your well-being physically and medically, but also for your well-being emotionally and mentally."

YAQUERO VOICE



THANKSGIVING PIE

On Nov. 9, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which of the following pies would you consider to be your favorite?" The results are shown below.

facebook

PECAN PIE 59

PUMPKIN PIE 52

APPLE PIE 32

NONE OF THE ABOVE 6



twitter

11 PECAN PIE

9 PUMPKIN PIE

4 APPLE PIE

3 NONE OF THE ABOVE



Instagram

APPLE PIE 10

PUMPKIN PIE 8

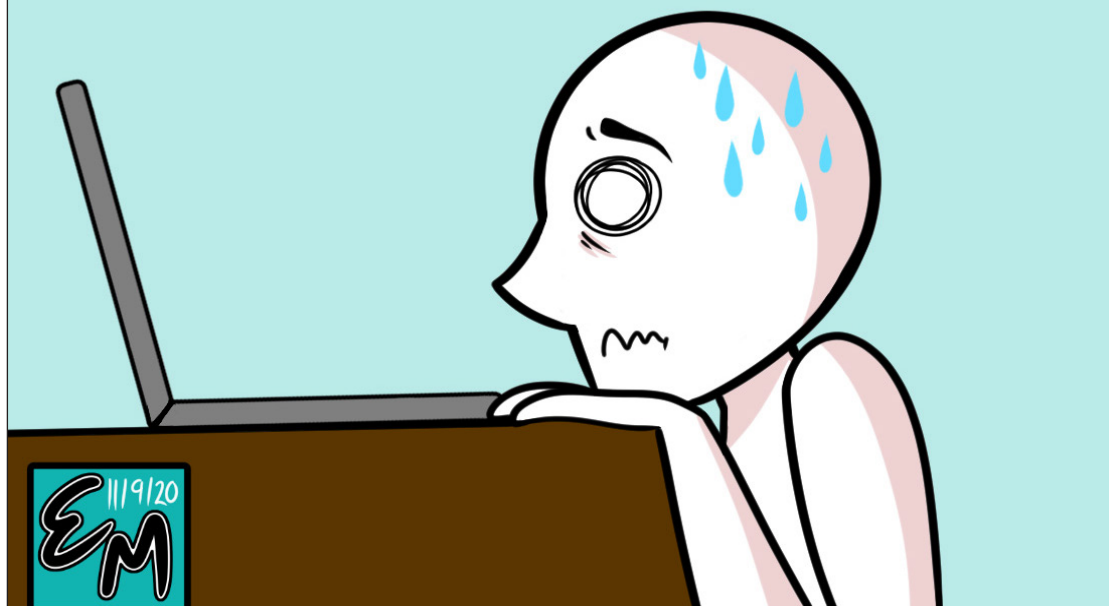
PECAN PIE 7

NONE OF THE ABOVE 6



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE
@UTRGVRIDER

Election Anxiety



Trust the process



Danielle Perez

THE RIDER

This year has been full of many twists and turns. Though, I can only come to a conclusion that I am grateful for the way it has turned out.

Even if at times I may disagree with how things are going, sometimes you just need to ride the wave and see where it takes you. The universe has its ways that no one may understand.

One day you are full of so much positive energy and the next there's so much negative energy flowing through your body. How does a change happen from one second to the next?

In reality, life is full of unexpected events, which only makes you want to go back and live in the moment the next time around, to be grateful for all the things you have been given the opportunity to experience, and to be able to give more love and share more moments with the people

around you.

However, it is OK to switch from left to right in a matter of seconds. It is OK to shift in your own ways. It is OK to feel the new energy rushing through your body. It can help you open your eyes and realize what is in front of you. And for that I am grateful. I am grateful that things are changing because now there is room for the unexpected and there is an empty room waiting to be filled with self-love and self-worth.

These last days I have been trying my hardest to get up and it's a challenge every day, but that is what life is about. It's about getting back on your feet when you may think you cannot keep going. It is about improvement, change and strength.

I am grateful that God has blessed me every day to become a stronger and wiser person. There is a reason for everything in life. The universe allows things to happen when you are ready. Once you have restored your positive energy, you start to attract what is good for you.

The Law of Vibration starts to come into play. This means the energy, thoughts and actions

you put out into the world start to resonate with your life. Your vibration starts to match your surroundings and it is such a pure thing to experience. Believing and setting your mind onto anything will make it become a reality. You need to truly feel your energy and emotions before anything.

These last couple of weeks I have been taking the time to journal and jot down my feelings, letting go of my bottled-up emotions, releasing the negativity and setting myself free, which allows me to experience what is meant to be for me.

Taking it day by day and challenging yourself is how it should be. Praying for strength when you feel like there's no motivation and manifesting your future into existence helps put me at ease.

Being at your low allows you to grow in ways you do not expect even when you feel like it is the end of the world. I believe God does things in ways we do not imagine, but it is all part of his plan. He is taking you places and at times certain things need to happen before you can land safely.

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.

Día de Acción de Gracias durante el COVID-19

Fernanda Figueroa
THE RIDER

Entre la pandemia del COVID-19, las celebraciones del día de Acción de Gracias de muchos estudiantes de UTRGV serán diferentes con ciertos cambios de planes debido a las preocupaciones de salud y seguridad.

Para Laura Juárez, una estudiante de comunicación de masas de último año, las reuniones en su casa usualmente involucran a 15 de sus familiares pero eso puede cambiar este año.

“Usualmente, mi familia y yo, siempre celebramos [el día de Acción de Gracias] en casa de mis padres”, Juárez dijo. “Usualmente sólo celebramos con mi familia materna. No sé si la misma cantidad de personas vendrá, usualmente son como 15 personas, pero ojalá sí sean las mismas. Creo que si son la misma cantidad de personas nos aseguraremos de que todos se hayan hecho la prueba del [COVID-19] para que no lo propaguemos”.

A pesar de la incertidumbre sobre los planes del día de Acción de Gracias, este año el cambio se ha convertido en algo normal para Juárez, hasta el punto en el que ella lo ve como “parte del cami-

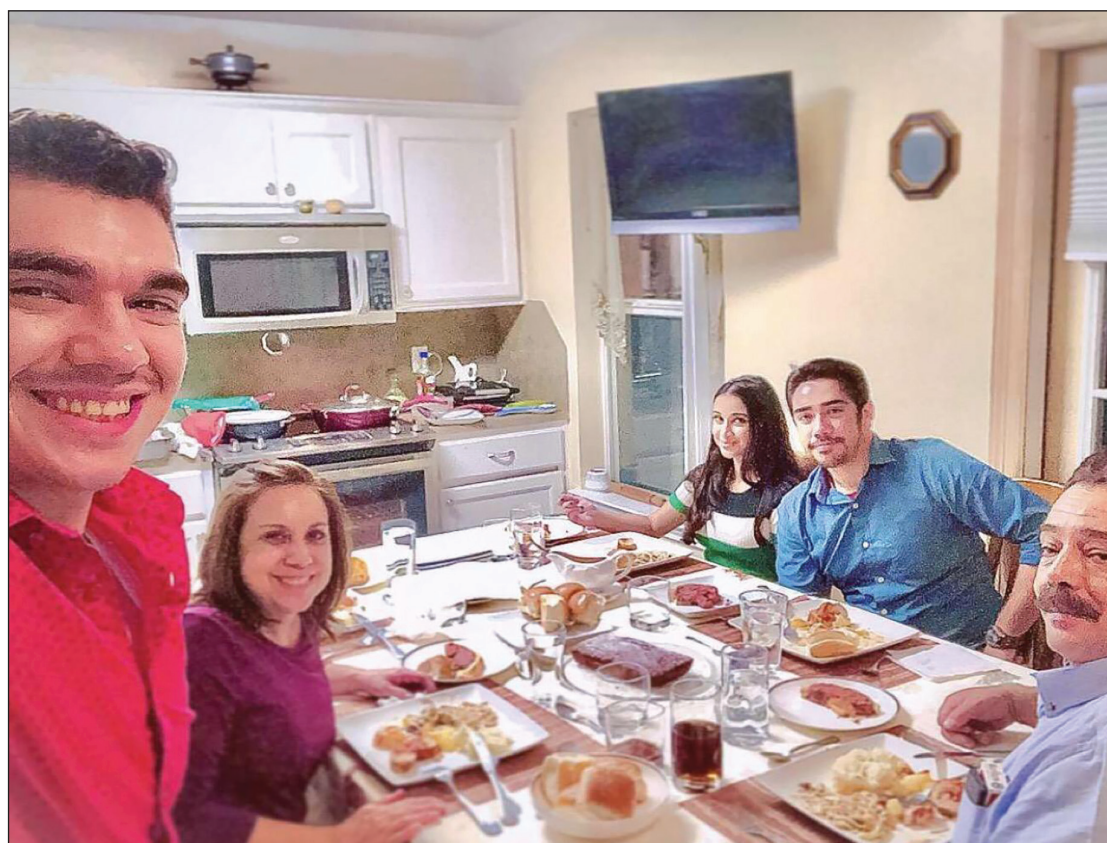


FOTO CORTESÍA DE OSCAR CALVILLO
Oscar Calvillo, estudiante de comunicación de masas de último año (izquierda), toma una foto con su familia durante la comida del día de Acción de Gracias del año pasado. También aparecen Noelia Calvillo, Sabrina, Miguel Calvillo y Jorge Calvillo.

no”. Aun así, ella está viéndole el lado positivo y deleitándose con la oportunidad de tener un día de Acción de Gracias menos estresante.

“Creo que es definitivamente una ventaja”, Juárez dijo.

“Definitivamente podría ahorrar dinero y, o sea, el lío de tener que ir a H-E-B. Siempre es estresante para mi mamá también porque ella prepara el pavo y todo, así que definitivamente hay un factor estresante

que podría disminuirse si no vinieran muchas personas”.

Los planes del día de Acción de Gracias de Oscar Calvillo, un estudiante de comunicación de masas de último año, han cambiado porque su fa-

milia extendida no puede visitarlos ya que su papá dio positivo al COVID-19 y toda su familia está en cuarentena en su hogar.

“Mi papá dio positivo”, Calvillo dijo. “[Nuestra] fiesta del día de Acción de Gracias sólo será en casa porque ya no podemos invitar a familiares, o al menos no por el momento”.

Los planes de Kathia Rodríguez, una estudiante de antropología de último año, no incluirán a su hermana, quien vive en Chicago. A pesar del hecho de que sus planes no cambiarán, ella cree que el día de Acción de Gracias será diferente para muchas familias.

“Literalmente, sólo [somos] mis papás, mi hermano y diría mi hermana, pero vive en Chicago, así que no puede venir”, Rodríguez dijo. “Comoquiera, siento, como que, habrá un giro en cómo las personas cambian sus planes para el día de Acción de Gracias. Creo que [las reuniones] serán más chicas ya que las personas tienen miedo de que se propague el COVID-19”.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

ON CAMPUS

Changing the narrative of Thanksgiving

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

To some people, Thanksgiving symbolizes turkey and sports. To Native Americans, the day may hold a different significance.

Ashley Leal, a UTRGV education doctoral student, is a member of the McAllen-headquartered Lipan Apache Tribe. Since childhood, Leal has celebrated Thanksgiving and will continue to do so this year. To her, though, Thanksgiving is another day to give thanks.

“[Thanksgiving] is part of our modern-day culture, so I do [celebrate] Thanksgiving,” Leal said. “That’s something I grew up with, but it’s also a different type of how we give thanks and what we give thanks for.”

Every morning, Leal gives thanks for another day and believes other Native Americans do, too, she said.

“When we wake up, we give thanks for the land, we give thanks for our people and for another day of life,” she said. “That’s for me, personally, but I think all Native people do that, too, because we are very much connected with the land.”

Last week, Leal attended a presentation that focused on changing the narrative of Thanksgiving in the classroom that resonated with her.

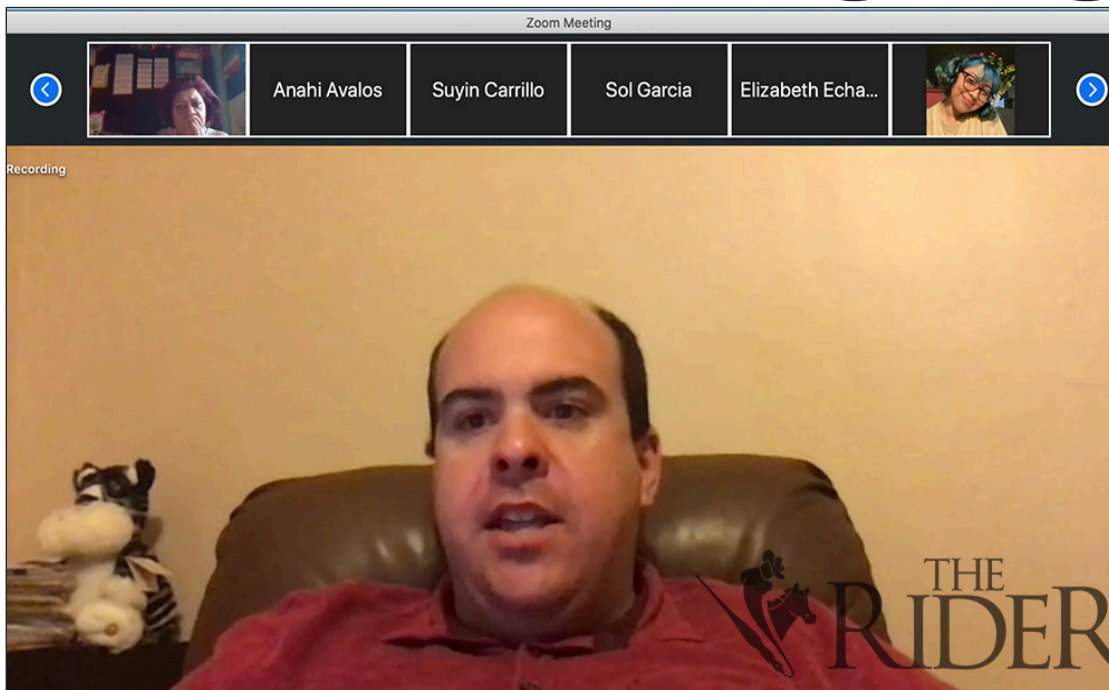
“A lot of children, they end up learning at preschool, kindergarten, those are the first idea[s] of what Thanksgiving is,” she said. “Pilgrims and Indians [are] what people stereotype all Native Americans to be ... with the poor bonnet and the headdress and the feathers. It’s important to remove this traditional narrative of what we picture Thanksgiving to be.”

Rio Grande Valley residents who are interested in learning about tribes in the Valley should attend meetings where people can view some Native American cultural practices and support the tribe by purchasing from vendors, when they are open to the public, Leal said. However, due to COVID-19, the Lipan Apache Tribe could not invite the community to its spring and fall meetings this year.

“Unfortunately, this year, we’re not able to open it up to the community,” she said. “Hopefully, next year we’ll be able to do that and have it open to the public again. This year would have been our 50th-year family powwow.”

While Leal chooses to celebrate Thanksgiving, many other Native Americans choose not to and consider it as a day of mourning, said Thomas Britten, a history professor who specializes in Native American history.

“For some, they would [view]



SCREENSHOT TAKEN BY AALIYAH GARZA DURING THE NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENTATION NOV. 9 VIA ZOOM

Political Science Lecturer Andrew Smith speaks about land disputes and the implications of U.S. Supreme Court rulings during a virtual presentation hosted by the Student Union in observance of Native American History Month.

Thanksgiving as mourning and fasting,” Britten said. “How can we celebrate an event that seems to kind of gloss over centuries of exploitation and conquest?”

In 1621, Thanksgiving originated when the Wampanoag Tribe included the Puritans in their annual feasts, and some Native Americans may feel that Thanksgiving is the only day they are considered, he said.

“It’s the one day of the year [when] non-Indians give any thought to Indians at all,” Britten said. “After Thanksgiving is over, Indians are relegated to the periphery.”

However, since Native Americans are a diverse group, others may see Thanksgiving as a

day to enjoy with loved ones, he said.

“It’s more like, ‘This is a nice day for us to get together, and rest, and share a meal with each other and enjoy each other’s company,’” Britten said.

To honor and recognize Native American cultures, November was designated as Native American Heritage Month during George H. W. Bush’s presidency, he said.

“[It is] to raise awareness, to celebrate Native American cultures and histories and celebrate their contributions to the national fabric,” Britten said.

To commemorate Native American Heritage Month, the Student Union hosted a virtual presentation last week on land

disputes and the implications of U.S. Supreme Court rulings with speakers Linda English, a history associate professor, and Andrew Smith, a political science lecturer.

English began the presentation with the Indian Removal Act up to American Indian territory in the late 19th century, and Smith’s presentation focused on recent legal cases between tribes and the U.S. government.

Haylin Luna, a biology senior, attended the presentation and believes events that recognize minorities, such as the Student Union’s presentation, help foster unity in com-

Annual turkey bowl becomes bonding experience for Athletics staffer

Ivan Palacios

THE RIDER

Since its creation, football has been a staple of most Thanksgiving celebrations. From high school to college to professional, the game can be seen throughout the week.

For some, though, the game takes place right in their own backyard. These annual Thanksgiving Day football games, or turkey bowl as they have been famously dubbed, have become tradition for families across America.

Many believe that these amateur turkey bowls came to be a way to get the men out of the house while the Thanksgiving feast was being prepared. For Assistant Athletic Director for Development Rogelio Chanes, the tradition began as a way for him and his friends to keep in touch.

“I didn’t really get involved in turkey bowl until joining friends’ Thanksgiving,” Chanes said. “I was usually that one guy that was the extra person at a family’s Thanksgiving because I was playing tag football or flag football. When we got older, all of a sudden we made it a legitimate thing to do every year. We purchase flags and we get together and play out in one of the fields or one of the parks in Brownsville. It just became a good bonding experience with friends and their families.”

Although the game is a way for him and his friends to bond every year, he admits the competitiveness of the game is still high. No trophy is handed out at the end of these games. Instead, Chanes and his friends play for something bigger; bragging rights.

“We’re super competitive,” he said.



WHAT IS TURKEY BOWL ?

Football has been a staple of most Thanksgiving celebrations.

For some though, the game takes place right in their own backyard. These annual Thanksgiving Day football games, or turkey bowls as they have been famously dubbed, have become tradition for families across America.

Many believe that these amateur turkey bowl games came to be as a way to get the men out of the house while the Thanksgiving feast was being prepared.

Jacqueline Wallace / THE RIDER GRAPHIC

“We’re keeping score. We have some of our friends’ girlfriends or wives take photos and action shots. It’s a whole production.

“That’s what it really comes down to, is just the bragging rights. I don’t think we’ve ever done trophies. I created a trophy once, but we never used it.”

Over the years, Chanes has made countless memories on the field during the annual turkey bowl, but one in particular sticks out to him.

“Before I got LASIK, I used to wear glasses or contacts,” he said. “It

was pretty bad. I had pretty bad eyesight. So, there was this one year that I didn’t have my contacts and I wasn’t going to play with glasses on ‘cause I was afraid I was going to break them. I was like the worst to catch ‘cause I would literally see the ball within two seconds coming at me. It was just the worst. I am like the worst to be out, just waiting to catch the ball.

“I swear there was just silly luck, to put it in nice terms. I’m out and the only one available to catch. So, I see the ball coming but it’s coming on my backside. So, I

just kind of flipped around and dropped a knee and caught it one-handedly. Everybody looked at me like, ‘How did you catch that being as blind as you are?’ I just got lucky, you know?”

To some, turkey bowls may seem like a group of adults gathering to play a child’s game and reliving their glory days. But to those like Chanes, it is much more than that.

“What I tell jokingly is I never do a high school reunion, like the 10 year or the 15 or, in my case, I’m getting old and coming up on my 20, because we get together every year for Thanksgiving and Charro Days,” he said. “That’s a whole other conversation to talk about.

“It’s our way of reconnecting if we’re not that close from each other or living in different cities or different parts of the country. Same thing if we don’t keep in touch through social media. We come together on Thanksgiving to kick the ball around or toss the ball around.”

Since he started this tradition with his friends as a child, Chanes has only missed the annual game in 2005, when he chose to stay home with a friend in Washington so he would not be alone.

Now older and a father, he hopes to continue the tradition with his son and his friends.

“Now I have a kid, so now my son comes with me and he sees me playing so he’s engaged in that kind of activity,” Chanes said. “In a way, it’s sort of starting that tradition so when he has friends I will try to push him towards doing that, playing football or playing soccer during Thanksgiving.”

Athlete of the Week: Mark Boswell

Exercise science freshman Mark Boswell is a member of the UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team. This is his first season with the team but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been no games. Prior to UTRGV, he played for Veterans Memorial High School in Mission from 2017 to 2020.

Q: How do you like to celebrate Thanksgiving?

A: “I say the best part, besides of course the food, would be hanging out with family. You know, bringing everybody together.”

Q: What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

A: “That’s a tough one. I think, I mean, besides the turkey, I’d say either, like, mac and cheese or the ham.”

Q: Would you say Thanksgiving is more of a relaxing or stressful holiday? Why?

A: “Definitely relaxing. It’s just, there’s always [a] Cowboys football game going on. So, that’s a must. So, the family is all

there on the couches or all around the table. We’re all just eating and relaxing.”

Q: Do you and your family play football on Thanksgiving Day? Why or why not?

A: “Yeah, we throw a couple passes around because we all really enjoy playing and watching football.”

Q: What do you think makes you good at your sport?

A: “I would say being coachable. You know, I’m always willing to go the extra mile for things and our work, you know? I would like to give myself [pointers] like to keep improving as well.”

Q: If you had to sum up your time as a soccer player into one word, what would it be and why?

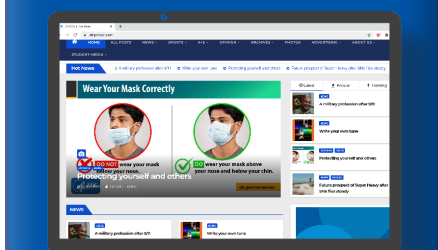
A: “Exciting for sure. I mean, I have been playing for, I don’t know how many years, nearly year-round. I just never seem to get tired [of it].”

—Compiled by Karina Rodriguez



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS
UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team player Mark Boswell.

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LOCAL

Giving back during times of unrest



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

People enjoy the 2019 H-E-B Feast of Sharing at the Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville. As announced by the H-E-B community event page on its official website, in-person dining events will be put on hold until 2021. Despite cancellation, H-E-B will donate food and funds to over 18 Texas food banks and more than 40 hunger relief agencies.

Omar Zapata

THE RIDER

With the pandemic running rampant, the UTRGV and Rio Grande Valley communities are finding ways to give back this Thanksgiving season.

The Pa La Raza Fundraiser is raising money and collecting donations for Valley organizations. This fundraiser is organized by Cassandra Montoya and Ramiro Gonzalez, who will be helping the Good Neighbor Settlement House, Switch RGV, Border Angels, the RGV Mutual Aid Fund and Friendship of Women, Inc.

With each \$5 donation or item donation, people will be entered into a raffle to win one of three mystery boxes filled with works

from local shops, artists, vendors and musicians.

Every \$5 gives a person one chance at the raffle and, with unlimited entries, people can donate more and have a higher chance of winning.

Pa La Raza will also be accepting new jackets, household items and personal hygiene items for donation and to be entered in the raffle.

Montoya said the fundraiser was put together to help these organizations during these difficult times.

She said she recognized, as an artist herself, how a lot of artists in the Valley have large platforms and if they all worked together, they could do something big to

help the community.

Montoya said during her difficult times, she was blessed to have the community help her when she needed it, and that is why she has lots of love for the raza.

“I just really want to give back,” she said. “This is something really important [to me] ... giving back to people that aren’t as fortunate as we are and the raza needs as much help as possible.”

Gonzalez said the mystery boxes will contain stickers, CDs, vouchers and more items from local businesses, creatives and individuals.

He said as soon as they

Memories of Thanksgiving past

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

Ruben Loza, a mass communication sophomore, remembers a Black Friday incident that got a bit heated.

Loza said he was trying to purchase 20 TVs with his uncle, who was buying them to give to his employees as Christmas presents, when a man came up to him and started yelling, "I want one TV! I want one TV!"

He said the man was angry that Loza was guarding 20 TVs and that the situation became chaotic.

"I wasn't mad at that moment," Loza said. "I was just defensive because I felt like that was my property. And if I want to buy 20 TVs, then I can buy them, you know."

He is one of a couple of UTRGV campus community members who shared their funniest and most heartwarming Thanksgiving memories.

Asked if he had ever experienced any awkward conversations at the dinner table on Thanksgiving, Loza replied that some of his family members like to make comments such as, "Ay, mijo, te miras muy gordito."

Loza said he is not looking forward to this topic at the dinner table this year.

He has helped his parents prepare Thanksgiving dinner since he was a boy.

Together, they make turkey, marshmallow salad, mashed potatoes, pineapple cake and many other dishes.

Loza said his favorite part of the meal is the turkey.

He said his favorite part of the holi-



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

day is that all his family members from out of town all come together to celebrate.

"Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays," Loza said. "For me, Thanksgiving is the best time of the year because it's when we celebrate life. I know we should be grateful every day, but that day, there's something about that day that, I don't know, we're just more thankful and we are so united. ... There's unity, there's love, there's fights on Black Friday, but that's the usual."

He said he is thankful for all his UTRGV professors who have helped him make the transition from high

school to college life and to the student mentors who have helped tutor him.

"I love them all so, so, so much," Loza said. "God bless them and happy Thanksgiving to everyone."

Amy Hay, a UTRGV associate history professor, recalls when she first broke the news to her mother that she had become a vegetarian after going off to college.

Hay said she was hesitant to tell her mother that she wouldn't be eating turkey but was pleasantly surprised when her mother prepared a separate meal for her.

"She ended up making dressing without the turkey," she said. "It

didn't have any turkey broth or anything, which I thought was really sweet."

Hay said it is hard to have a tradition that is dependent on meat when being a vegetarian. Luckily, she found a butternut squash recipe that she loved and said it is now part of her own tradition.

"When I finally found a recipe that felt like fall, felt like a good holiday dish, it made me really happy," Hay said. "I just regret that I didn't find it when my mom was still alive so that I could have shared it with her because I think she would have really loved it."

She said she found a new respect for her mother when she had to prepare Thanksgiving dinner on her own one year.

"You've got so many dishes, and you kind of have to plan it out because, like, I only have one oven," Hay said. "So, like, I had to do what my mom would do, which was make the potatoes and then put them in the microwave to keep them warm. I had no idea how much organizational skill you have to have because you've got the major meal and then you've got all these side dishes. ... It was amazing to me how much work my mom had been doing all this time, and I had no clue. I was just happy to eat the last results."

She said one year, when she was making Thanksgiving dinner for her friends, she was trying to make corn on the cob, but didn't know how.

"I had to call my mom and ask, 'Mom, how do I cook this?'" Hay said.

Thanksgiving dishes

Karina Rodriguez

THE RIDER

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, students' and professors' stomachs are grumbling for their favorite holiday dishes.

UTRGV Writing & Language Studies Professor Lyon Rathbun talked about his favorite holiday dish.

"We usually have Thanksgiving dinner at home, and it's usually a turkey," said Rathbun. "We cook a big, giant turkey and it lasts for days and days. Then we boil the bones and we make a nice bone broth and make a nice stew out of that."

He said that his ties to turkey go far back to his and his wife's childhoods.

"Well, I guess both my wife and I grew up with turkey," Rathbun said. "We're both from traditional families from the San Francisco Bay Area, and turkey Thanksgiving is always traditional."

He said that if he had to sum up how

his dish makes him feel in one word, it would be grateful.

"Grateful [because of] the abundance of having a great meal with friends and family," Rathbun said. "[I have] an appreciation for everybody who's there and appreciation for the food. Usually, it is a daylong process of cooking and being with friends and family, and, so, it's a good time."

He said that turkey is relatively easy to cook.

"Baking a turkey is pretty standard," Rathbun said. "You know, you roast it, you baste it and don't overcook it."

Brian Warren, an associate professor for the Theatre department, also talked about his favorite Thanksgiving dishes.

"What I do is fry a turkey," Warren said. "You know, it is a lot better than, I think, than a traditional turkey, which is all good, but when you fry it is yummy, yummy, eat it because of my big, fat body, but I do love them."

He said his wife does most of the cooking during Thanksgiving.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

attached to memories the food brings him.

"I have four brothers and a sister... and a lot of extended family," said Warren. "So, you know what happened is that I connect the feasting with all those people, and [it] brings back pleasant memories."

"My wife is such, you know, she's kind of picky, and she does the cooking," Warren said. "She doesn't really let me in the kitchen. So, I am just starting to do little things like soups and stuff. But as far as a recipe, I would say no, I don't have one."

He said that a lot of his enjoyment is

NATIVE

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"It helps [minorities] see 'People

are willing to learn about my views and opinions,'" Luna said. "It just helps create a unity between everybody because they see that there's people willing to

learn about them, and they're willing to teach you."

On Nov. 23, the Civic Engagement Alliance will host an online event to learn

about Native American Heritage Day, which is observed on Nov. 27, according to VLink.

CELEBRATION

Continued from Page 2

Anthropology senior Kathia Rodriguez's Thanksgiving plans will not include

her sister, who lives in Chicago. Despite the fact that her plans will not change, she does think that Thanksgiving for most families will look different.

"Literally, [it's] just my parents, my brother and I would say my sister, but [she] lives in Chicago so she can't come," Rodriguez said. "I feel, though, like,

there's going to be a shift in how people kind of switch up their plans for Thanksgiving. I feel like it might be smaller due to people being afraid of COVID spreading."

COMMUNITY

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announced the fundraiser, local artists jumped at the opportunity to help.

"I understand money at this time, during [the] pandemic, and, like, people getting laid off and stuff, it can be hard to just donate or want to do any sort of gesture," Gonzalez said. "Even sharing the posts [on social media] or even by word of mouth, you know, can help somebody else."

For more information or questions on how to donate, visit @palaraza956 on Instagram.

"If we can bring the community even closer than it already is, it can do crazy amount of changes," Montoya said.

Fatima Salinas, a political science junior, started a donation drive for Friendship of Women Inc. to help survivors of sexual

assault and domestic abuse.

Friendship of Women Inc. is an organization that seeks social change through advocacy, education, prevention and provides a safe home for victims and their families in Cameron County.

The donation drive is asking for new jackets, gloves and scarves to household and personal hygiene items.

Salinas said she started this drive as an applied project for her feminist philosophy class at UTRGV.

She said she wanted to help people through these tough times.

"Not only are people experiencing all the different types of abuse by the abuser, like physical, emotional and/or like psychological abuse, but they're also going through the hardships of the pandemic, COVID-19," Salinas said. "So, further isolation, that could lead to further abuse."

She said there are three different drop-off locations for items and, with a donation, people are entered into a giveaway of items from local businesses.

The drop-off locations are:

- The Student Union on the Edinburg campus, located at 1201 W. University Dr.,
- Tapioca Roots at 3300 W. Expy 83, Suite 1240, in McAllen and
- Retama Business Center at 2112 S. Shary Road in Mission.

Those who donate will get a chance to receive a jewelry set by SweetLove, a dozen chocolate covered strawberries by Sweet Treats, a charcuterie board by Cheese Boards RGV, or two one-hour tutoring sessions of the winner's choice provided by The Academe.

To enter the raffle, people must either take a picture of the donation and post it on their Instagram and tag @rgvdonationdrive

or direct message the page saying they have donated.

Salinas said if people are able to donate, it would help during these tough times, especially with winter nearing.

Diego Salas, a finance junior and president of Entrepreneurial Action For Us (Enactus), told The Rider the organization is keeping its tradition of Cansgiving, a food drive that gives families full turkey dinners for Thanksgiving.

Enactus is an international organization of over 72,000 students worldwide in over 37 countries with 1,730 chapters.

"What we're really focused on, here at Enactus, is that we use entrepreneurial action for the betterment of the world," Salas said.

Cansgiving was first held in 2015

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Giving back during times of unrest



Political science senior Fatima Salinas has organized a donation drive to support the Friendship of Women Inc., an emergency, temporary shelter which offers help to women who have been victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. One of the donation boxes is located at the Student Union Info Desk on the Edinburg campus.

Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

THE RIDER

H-E-B Feast of Sharing attendees enjoy a free meal in 2019. The Feast of Sharing is an annual event hosted by grocery store chain H-E-B. Thousands of people attend to receive a free meal. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person dining events are on hold until 2021.

THE RIDER FILE PHOTOS



COMMUNITY

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at UTRGV. He said the organization started by feeding 25 families and in 2019, they fed

over 300 families in the Valley.

Salas said this year, Enactus received a \$6,000 grant from Emilia Hernandez of the McAllen Elks Lodge organization to feed

more families in the area. He also said Enactus UTRGV has raised over \$1,000 on a GoFundMe page for the food drive.

Salas said with the grant and

GoFundMe money, Enactus is hoping to feed over 300 families.

To help with Cansgiving, click here to donate to the organization's GoFundMe page.

The Two Sides of the Moon



Belzec
July 1942

Axel took a deep breath and sighed. He watched as his breath took the form of a small cloud and disappeared into the air. The morning breeze weakly floated by as Axel observed the local police aiding some SS officers in directing the Sonderkommandos to an open area. Some tread their feet towards the area they were directed to, tired from the work of lugging bodies around over the seemingly endless weeks. Others, who were lucky enough to work in administrative positions, walked with a lighter step - well, as light as a step gets in an extermination camp.

"Axel? What are you gazing at the sky for? Didn't know it was that interesting." Axel looked over his shoulder and saw a bed of short blond curls striding towards him. "Looks like rain," he replied lowly, returning his attention to the cloudy sky. Franz Fiser peered into the thick layer of grey. "Yes, I suppose so." He looked at Axel. "I still can't make you laugh," he muttered. "Anyway, the next transport is due to arrive in a few hours. The Commandant wants us to oversee its arrival to insure everything goes smoothly." Axel nodded. He probably wants to assure its success to enforce his authority. He only arrived a month ago after all, Axel thought. "The Commandant will call a meeting with us shortly, after the Sonderkommandos are taken care of. I have a feeling it will be about one of us transferring to another camp," Franz continued. "Rumor has it whoever's transferred will be Commandant." He winked. "I guess we'll find out later, huh?" Axel nodded. "I guess we will."

"Come on, let's head over. The new goldies can't leave the transports themselves." Axel finally turned to his comrade and gestured him to take the lead. Franz scrunched his eyebrows at Axel's seemingly dejected demeanor. He didn't mention it, however; Axel always seemed like he was weighed down by something and avoided it when asked. As Franz adjusted his officers' hat over his hair before stalking off, Axel briefly closed his eyes and mentally composed himself for the day ahead of him.

Axel and Franz arrived at the entrance of the camp, where their men were waiting for the shipments to arrive. They walked slowly towards the platform, almost lazily, as all the SS commandants and Ukrainian soldiers shot up and saluted, officially ending their break time. "The shipments are almost here," Franz shouted. "Get to your positions and be ready to round up the Jews!" The soldiers scrambled and stood at the ready, prepared to keep control if there was any unnecessary chaos. Axel watched as the transports chugged their way to Belzec, knowing there would be rows and rows of crowded men, women, and children shaken with confusion and fear. No one really knows what happens in these secluded camps, but they will find out soon enough. They always do.

Axel's breath hitched. It'll be a long day.

He stepped back as the soldiers moved forward to collect the prisoners. They screamed their orders to the collective and commanded two lines to be formed, one for men and another for women. The crowd shifted slowly. "Move faster! We don't have all day!" barked Axel, sudden impatience growing inside him. The SS officers shoved the men and women into two separate lines, separating children from their father or mother, brother from sister, lover from lover. Any sort of protest received blows from the backs of rifles or slaps in the face. Once the lines were organized, everyone was ordered to drop any possessions that were not being worn or considered a necessity. The lines of people obediently dropped their possessions on the ground, aware of how close the butts of the rifles were to the back of their heads. "Search them," ordered Franz. Axel and Franz walked in the middle of both lines while the soldiers searched for any jewelry, watches, or extra purses/bags the deportees kept on their person.

Axel watched diligently as accessories were occasionally plucked from a man, woman, or child. Some refused or cried out, which was received with another hit to the head or the back. They were nearly at the end of the line when Axel heard a crack and thump behind him. He turned around and saw a few soldiers pinning down a tall man, who was grunting and struggling to be released from their hold. One of the SS officers joined the fray and aimed his rifle at the flailing Jew. "Stop," Axel ordered. The soldiers glanced up at Axel and let go of the man. "Keep him restrained," he ordered, and strode towards the SS officer. "Don't waste your bullets unnecessarily; he's going to die anyway," Axel hissed. He was always particularly bothered by the unneeded use of bullets on dead men. The SS officer lowered his gun. "I apologize, sir." Axel, satisfied, nodded in acknowledgment. "What's the problem here?" "This man refuses to give up his watch," the officer responded. "His watch?" Axel repeated with a smirk. He turned towards the pinned down Jew. His blue eyes locked with a fairly familiar pair of green ones. Axel stared at the man for a few seconds, wondering why his chest felt heavy with sorrow and regret. His eyes widened as he recognized the thick, dark hair on this man, tied together with familiar facial features and a very small scar on the bottom of his lip from a fight so many years ago.

Joseph.

"Release him." Axel muttered after a few moments. Joseph stared at Axel for a moment as if trying to confirm that it really was his childhood friend who was standing over him. He snapped out of his trance and sat up quickly, mouth forming to say something, anything, but he was quickly cut off by Axel.

"Hand me the watch." Axel opened his hand and stared at the watch on Joseph's wrist. Joseph looked down and realized the situation they were in; it wasn't a joyful reunion, but two men on opposite sides of a war of terror on his people. Joseph slowly took off his watch and handed it to Axel's outstretched hand. Axel took it and gave it to Franz, who was right behind him. He looked at Joseph for a little while longer, turned around, and walked away.

Yvanna Gonzalez

