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COVID-19 and health care

Understanding President Biden's executive actions



WhiteHouse.Gov

Sol Garcia
THE RIDER

Since his first days in office, President Joe Biden has been issuing executive orders and memorandums regarding COVID-19, health care, the environment, immigration and more. The following are related to COVID-19 and health care, according to the White House's official website.

COVID-19
In efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, Biden has issued several executive orders, including instructing federal agencies to prioritize actions that will provide the "greatest relief" to individuals, families, small businesses and governments, such as state or tribal. Biden's executive orders and actions regarding

COVID-19 include:
--creating a coordinator position to organize the COVID-19 response
--creating a task force dedicated to mitigating health inequities caused or furthered by COVID-19
--creating a COVID-19 testing

board to expand testing access and supplies
--requiring Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, such as using masks, to be enforced in federal buildings or on lands
--issuing a sustainable public health supply chain, such as reviewing the availability of pandemic response supplies, including personal protective equipment
--directing federal agencies to gather necessary information on safely reopening schools, higher education institutions and child care programs
--directing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to revise COVID-19 guidance for employers on workplace safety.
"All of those ... are very much in the right step for helping people to remain protected while they are serving the public, whether they are medical professionals or other essential workers," said Natasha Altema McNeely, a political science associate professor at UTRGV.

Health care
On Jan. 28, Biden issued an executive order that expands access to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act to those who are underinsured or uninsured, said McNeely, whose specializations include health policy.
"[It] would prevent people with pre-existing conditions

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'Death and taxes' are for certain

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

With the 2021 tax season underway, a UTRGV student expressed concern about filing his tax return.

Oscar Peña, a computer science senior, is confused about how his stock market investments affect his taxes.

"I worked this past summer when COVID-19 started, and we had to go to online classes," Peña said. "I started working at Walmart."

He said he is still waiting on his W-2 form.

Asked if he had any reservations about filing, Peña replied that he is not sure how to include his investments in the stock market on his tax return.

"I've invested, so I'm not sure how that works," he said. "I'm probably going to go to a tax accountant to see how that works because I still have to file my [tax return] on that."

Peña still is not sure who he will file with, but said he will more than likely go with his

Roxanna Miranda/ THE RIDER GRAPHIC

parents' tax accountant.

He said he wants to know how to determine if he owes any money, and if so, how much time he has to pay it off.

"The most important question I would have is, just like, if you do receive or owe money

on your taxes, like, how long do you have to pay them, and like, when will you actually receive that amount that you are supposed to receive," Peña said. "I know a lot of people don't realize how much they owe in taxes, so, as a first-time [filer], I would want to know if I owe money: How much time [do] I have and how much do I owe?"

UTRGV Expert

Siamak Javadi, a UTRGV assistant professor of finance, addressed some of the questions that Peña asked.

Javadi said it is important to file because "taxes are mandatory, so there's no way around it."

"If you don't pay your taxes, the IRS is gonna come after

you," he said. "Doesn't matter how much you hate paying taxes."

From an ethical perspective, he said it is one's civic duty to pay taxes.

"We are using all the infrastructure that the government states local taxes are providing for us, like roads, bridges and all these constructions," Javadi said. "So, these utilities need to be financed, so that's how we pitch in. We contribute to the welfare of society."

The finance professor said by paying taxes, citizens create a "social safety net," such as Medicare and unemployment benefits.

"As a society, we need to provide some type of a safety net in case somebody loses their job due to unfortunate circumstances," Javadi said. "So, there is a moral component to paying taxes as well."

Asked how students can ensure they do not make mistakes when filing a tax return, he replied, "I assume most students, they do not have a lot of assets, so their tax returns to file are pretty simple

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Ask the Expert: Fourth in a Series

THE RIDER

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today

Charreada Virtual 5K

Today is the deadline to register for **Student Activities and University Recreation's Charreada Virtual 5K**, which will take place Saturday. The virtual race can be run or walked from any location, outdoors or on the treadmill. Participants will be sent an **event T-shirt and medal**. RSVP is available on VLink.

The Dating Game Show

In celebration of Valentine's Day, join the **Campus Activities Board** from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom for the Dating Game Show. **Couples** will compete to answer questions on how well they know each other and **single people** will answer questions about who they would like to date. Students will compete for **cash prizes**. RSVP is available on VLink.

Tuesday

The People Series: Mardi Gras

Learn the history and significance of **Mardi Gras** for this week's installment of **The People Series**, hosted by the **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Wednesday

Library Electronic Resources

Join the **University Library** to learn about library electronic resources, how to access them for research and to get guidance on the

topic from noon to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

'Star Wars' Conversations

The **Science Fiction & Fantasy Interest Group** will meet to discuss "Star Wars" and "The Mandalorian" from 3:30 to 4:40 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID number is 847 7933 3100.

The Witch Among Us

The **UTRGV Latino Theatre Initiative** will participate in the online "Festival de la Bête Noire." The group will perform "The Witch Among Us," by Francisco Garza Rincones, under the direction of Carolina Perez Jaber. The festival will run from Feb. 17 to 21. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased [here](#).

Thursday

DreamWorks Trivia

First Year Experience will host a **DreamWorks Trivia** from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Black History Month Speaker

The **Civic Engagement Alliance** will host **Yaw Sam**, a UTRGV Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship alumnus and president of the Youth Entrepreneurship Society, from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Students who RSVP and attend the Zoom will be placed in a drawing for a chance to win **AirPods, UTRGV merchandise and other prizes**. RSVP is available on VLink.

Big Heads and Beats

Students can get a **digital carica-**

ture from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Once completed, students will receive an email of the digital caricatures as well as a video download of the experience. The event is sponsored by **Student Activities**. RSVP is available on VLink.

Friday

Student Services Fee Meeting

The **Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)**, which advises the university president on the allocation of the student services fee in accordance with Texas Education Code Sec. 54.5043, will begin review of Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposals from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Friday. All meetings will be online. Contact the **Office of the Dean of Students** at dos@utrgrv.edu or (956) 665-2260 to RSVP and indicate if accommodations are required. For more information, visit www.utrgv.edu/sfac.

Saturday

Homecoming Virtual Party

Join **Student Activities and University Recreation** as they host a **virtual tailgate and dance party** for the Homecoming game from 5 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Academic Publishing Webinar

Join the **Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies** in its second webinar in a series about academic publishing from 1 to 2 p.m. Feb. 22 via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is 867 661 3432.

--Compiled by Omar E. Zapata

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 1 and 6.



Feb. 1

1:30 p.m.: A staff member reported another staff member had come by her place of employment at the Medical Education

Building on the Edinburg campus. She wanted the incident documented because she did not want further communication with the man.

3:01 p.m.: A non-affiliated man was issued a criminal trespass warning at the request of a Residential Life staff member for violating housing rules at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. The man left the location without incident.

Feb. 2

3:38 p.m.: A non-affiliated elderly woman fell and hurt her right shoulder area while exiting the Medical Education Building on the Edinburg campus. Hidalgo County Emergency Medical Services transported her to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for further medical

evaluation.

4:01 p.m.: A staff member reported receiving repeated unwanted emails from a non-affiliated woman to her UTRGV-issued email account. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 3

1:04 p.m.: Officers and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to the International Trade and Technology Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to a fire alarm. After checking the building, the fire department deemed it safe for reentry. A construction crew working in the area had accidentally set off the alarm.

Feb. 4

2:46 p.m.: An officer responded to the Medical Education Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to an injury a staff member suffered on Feb. 3. While emptying trash from the vaccination stations, the staff member suffered a needle puncture from a syringe to her left leg. After the incident, she informed her supervisor and was medically evaluated by medical personnel at the UTRGV Health Clinic. The

syringe had been protruding from a trash bag and was later properly disposed of by clinic staff.

Feb. 6

5:20 p.m.: An officer met with two non-affiliated individuals in regard to a traffic collision occurring off campus. The vehicle sustained minor damage, and no injuries were reported.

UPDATE

A detective obtained an arrest warrant for a suspect in a theft case, a state jail felony. On Jan. 28, a woman reported she had left her cell phone in the women's restroom in the UTRGV Health Pediatric Specialties Clinic on the Edinburg campus. She used a phone application to find the phone's location, which was concluded to be a staff member's off-campus residence. The staff member admitted to taking the phone, and the phone was returned to the owner. After turning herself in to a detective at the UTRGV Police Department on Feb. 4, the woman was booked into the Edinburg City Jail without incident.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER? CALL US AT 882-5143 OR 665-2541

Homecoming goes virtual



File Photos

Students walk during the Homecoming Golf Cart Parade last spring in Edinburg. The parade started at Unity Residence Hall and finished at the Fieldhouse.

Omar Zapata

THE RIDER

With Homecoming traditionally being a weeklong event in February, Student Activities has changed it to a virtual, extended event due to COVID-19.

Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities, said the change was made after discussing it with fellow departments.

“So, we spoke to our partners at Athletics, we spoke to our friends at Alumni Relations, and we, kind of, discussed, like, the pros and cons of doing a three-weekend series, and everyone agreed to it,” Mata-Vasquez said.

She said students were also included in the talks of altering the Homecoming celebration.

“It was kind of 50-50,” Mata-Vasquez said. “So, we were like, ‘Let’s try it out.’ It doesn’t hurt to try something out.”

She said events will be on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. To see the list of events, RSVP and be updated on Homecoming, click here.

“We are working closely with our partners at Athletics to figure out, you know, how do we move forward.” Mata-Vasquez said. “We definitely want to celebrate our students and celebrate Homecoming, but we also want to be respectful of anything that Athletics may be doing to honor [former UTRGV

Men’s Basketball Head Coach Lew Hill.]”

Hill, 55, died in his sleep Feb. 7.

The first virtual tailgate was postponed due to Grand Canyon University not being able to make it to the Rio Grande Valley to play against UTRGV.

“We thought, ‘Let’s just postpone it and see if we can do it another time,’” she said.

Hannah Brigitte Ramirez Rangel, a civil engineering freshman, said she was going to attend the virtual tailgate and the basketball game, but it got postponed.

“I’ve been attending, like, some online events and then

See **HOMEcoming**, Page

Enrollment numbers on Census Day



Enrollment at UTRGV was at 30,075 on Census Day, Jan. 27. Numbers have decreased since The Rider’s last report on Jan. 18.

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

This spring semester, enrollment numbers have decreased slightly since last month. Census Day for the university was Jan. 27, with 30,075 students attending the university.

Magdalena “Maggie” Hinojosa, senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, said the enrollment numbers are not official until they are reported by the

Office of Strategic Analysis and Institutional Reporting around March.

“There’s still time, there’s cleanup, there’s things that have to happen, but I will give you enrollment as it is after census and all drops that occur, and we are at 30,075 [students],” Hinojosa said.

The report shows a decrease from the beginning of the semester, when there were 30,147 students enrolled, but an increase from last spring’s

27,316.

Asked what some potential reasons for this change may be, she replied, “Well, you know, fall enrollment has a direct impact on spring, right, and our fall enrollment was high. It was over 31,000 students, and so this is a direct reflection of that enrollment, and so obviously, we’ve had an increase in our undergraduate population, significant increases in our graduate population.”

There are 24,286 undergraduate and 5,572 graduate students. The UTRGV School of Medicine is not included in the figures.

Of the undergraduates, 3,604 are freshmen, 4,783 sophomores, 6,446 juniors and 9,056 are seniors. There are also 397 post-baccalaureate students.

Hinojosa said the university will continue with programs that have helped students, such as the four-year guaranteed tuition.

“So, when a student comes to UTRGV in their first year,

See **ENROLLMENT**, Page 8



Commemorating Black history virtually

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

In 1915, historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to research and recognize Black Americans and others of African descent, according to history.com.

The organization would become today’s Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and in 1926, it began to honor the second week of February as national Negro History Week. The week coincided with Frederick Douglass’ and Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

After the week received momentum across the country from schools to mayors, universities began to commemorate Black History Month. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially designated February as Black History Month.

Forty-five years after the designation, Black History Month continues to recognize Black history and accomplishments.

However, it is important to acknowledge that marginalized groups or identities must be recognized for more than a month, said Alexandra Hughes, UTRGV assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

“When it comes to the idea of Black History Month, or any month from a particular identity or marginalized group, the first thing is recognition that it should be celebrated more than just in a particular time frame,” Hughes said.

To commemorate Black History Month, students should learn about Black history to gain an understanding of current events, she said.

“The whole point is to examine history and really using this month to bring attention to the historical events within this country that have caused the current time that we’re in,” Hughes said.

Students can learn more about Black history on various mediums, she said. Hughes’ recommendations include “Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America,” a podcast hosted by Carvell Wallace and ACLU Deputy Director Jeffery Robinson, and “13th,” a Netflix documentary that analyzes the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom. Readers can learn from many novels, such as “How to be an Antiracist,” and Instagram users can access accounts dedicated to racial justice.

“As you come across different things ... you may learn about Black culture, you may learn about history, you may learn about your own culture, you may learn about the intertwining of different things,” Hughes said.

The UTRGV community can further commemorate Black History Month by attending virtual events distinguishing the Black community.

The events, hosted by several UTRGV departments, range from movie nights and last week’s

Distinguished Speaker Series to the People Series, which discusses influential individuals and their impacts, said Vanessa Sandoval, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change.

While Hispanic students are the majority at UTRGV, many other students are Black and other ethnicities, and their cultures should be celebrated, too, Sandoval said.

The virtual events not only feature Black historical figures but also focus on continuing to advocate for social justice, she said.

“[They are] just really celebrating those who have paved the way to where we are today and, really, acknowledging how far we’ve come but how much work we still need to ... create equality and equity within everyone,” Sandoval said.

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BHM MOVIES

On Feb. 8, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What movie about the African American experience would you recommend?" The results are shown below.

facebook

HIDDEN FIGURES 18

JUST MERCY 3

ROOTS 3

SELMA 1



twitter

5 HIDDEN FIGURES

5 42

3 SELMA

1 JUST MERCY



Instagram

HIDDEN FIGURES 13

42 3

SELMA 2



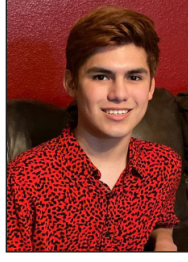
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Rest in Peace

Coach Lew Hill



No one is coming to save us



Avery Arizola
THE RIDER

I read somewhere that the pandemic is a dress rehearsal for how the ruling class would respond to the impending climate crisis and social unrest.

The last few months have made it clear that nobody is coming to save us. While the working class suffers the pandemic and record-high unemployment, the rich benefit from a system that was meant to serve them since its inception.

In a country where 26,000 die every year due to lack of health insurance, the fact that 20% of 2.2 million COVID-19 deaths are from the U.S. is not surprising. However, what should anger you, not shock you, is that universal health care was argued against during the 2020 Democratic Party presidential debates--as if the idea of working class lives being treated without paying an arm and a leg was debatable. As a resident of Hidalgo County, where almost a third of the population under 65 is unemployed, this kind of resistance is violent.

Feigned support is the running theme of the Democratic Party. They are committed to gaslighting everyday Americans by voicing support, but providing no substantial change to relieve the onslaught the pandemic has brought upon the working class. This is evident in Democrats' collaboration with the media's hollow messaging to honor essential workers but limp support of a \$15-per-hour minimum wage, their bait-and-switch on the promise of \$2,000 checks to Georgia voters and their "I believe in Science" catchphrase.

When questioned on House voting procedures on impeachment via Twitter,

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) tweeted, "A few reasons: Sometimes it's to get members on the record, so ppl can't make excuses later. Sometimes these votes create real political pressure that forces developments. Sometimes we vote for the historical record - to let future generations know we did everything we could."

That exact reasoning was the basis for #ForceTheVote, an online movement conceptualized by online personality Jimmy Dore and spearheaded by Briahna Joy Gray, former national press secretary for the Bernie Sanders campaign. The idea was to use the unified power of the progressive Democrat voting bloc by withholding votes for Nancy Pelosi's speakership in exchange for a House floor vote on "Medicare for All." While the vote would ultimately fail, the principles were identical to Ocasio-Cortez's reasoning for impeachment, despite the end of Trump's term.

However, Ocasio-Cortez and all members of "The Squad" failed to stand by the message that was central to all of their communications. Moreover, they had little to no response to the pressure that was mounting on social media.

For many, not me though, the progressives led by Ocasio-Cortez seemed like the last hope in a government that is bloated with corporatists on both sides of the aisle. Their lack of commitment to a policy that has an approval rating of 63% among Americans and is synonymous with progressivism revealed them to be the same bad faith actors they often vilify on social media and cable TV.

Liberals, like Ocasio-Cortez, tweet, "Health care is a human right," almost daily. It has become standard to say things like this, then oppose universal health care within the next breath. The so-called progressives of the Democratic Party do more harm than good

to populist movements. They turn working-class policies into strongly worded tweets and punchy slogans one would find on a university student's T-shirt. Then, when the time to act on these policies comes, congressional progressives have no shortage of excuses for why they cannot do the things they promise. Their political theater disarms and defangs the little power that workers have in the electoral system.

The performative support for an empowered working class has baited Americans into thinking there is hope within a party that will swindle its voters in favor of its corporate donors and financial partners at every chance it can get. Democrats make it clear they have no interest in assisting lower- and middle-class Americans when they go all in on an impeachment trial of a president that is no longer in office, have no immediate plans to fight climate change, make no action to provide universal health care to Americans in the middle of a pandemic and install defense industry war hawks in the presidential administration.

The 2020 U.S. Senate runoff election in Georgia made it clear that running on policies that focus on actually helping people is more popular than egging on the never-ending battle between Republicans and Democrats.

So, when I turn on the TV and see a Wall Street ghoul bemoaning Redditors trading on the stock market and moments later, three arms of the Biden administration, one with a conflict of interest, reveal they are monitoring the situation, I am no longer surprised. I have accepted that no one is coming to save us. My only hope is that you see it now, too. If we recognize that bad faith actors have no place in the people-powered push for change, then we will be able to save ourselves.

'La muerte y los impuestos' están asegurados

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Con la temporada de impuestos del 2021 en marcha, un estudiante de UTRGV expresó su preocupación sobre presentar su declaración de impuestos.

Oscar Peña, un estudiante de ciencias de la informática, está confundido sobre cómo le afectan sus inversiones en el mercado bursátil en sus impuestos.

"Trabajé el verano pasado cuando comenzó el COVID-19, y tuvimos que tener clases en línea", Peña dijo. "Empecé a trabajar en Walmart".

Él dijo que aún está esperando por su formulario W-2.

Se le preguntó a Peña si tenía dudas sobre presentar su declaración de impuestos. Él contestó que no está seguro de cómo incluir sus inversiones en el mercado bursátil en su declaración de impuestos.

"He invertido, entonces no sé cómo es que funciona", Peña dijo. "Probablemente iré con un contador de impuestos para ver cómo funciona porque todavía tengo que preparar mi [declaración de impuestos] en eso".

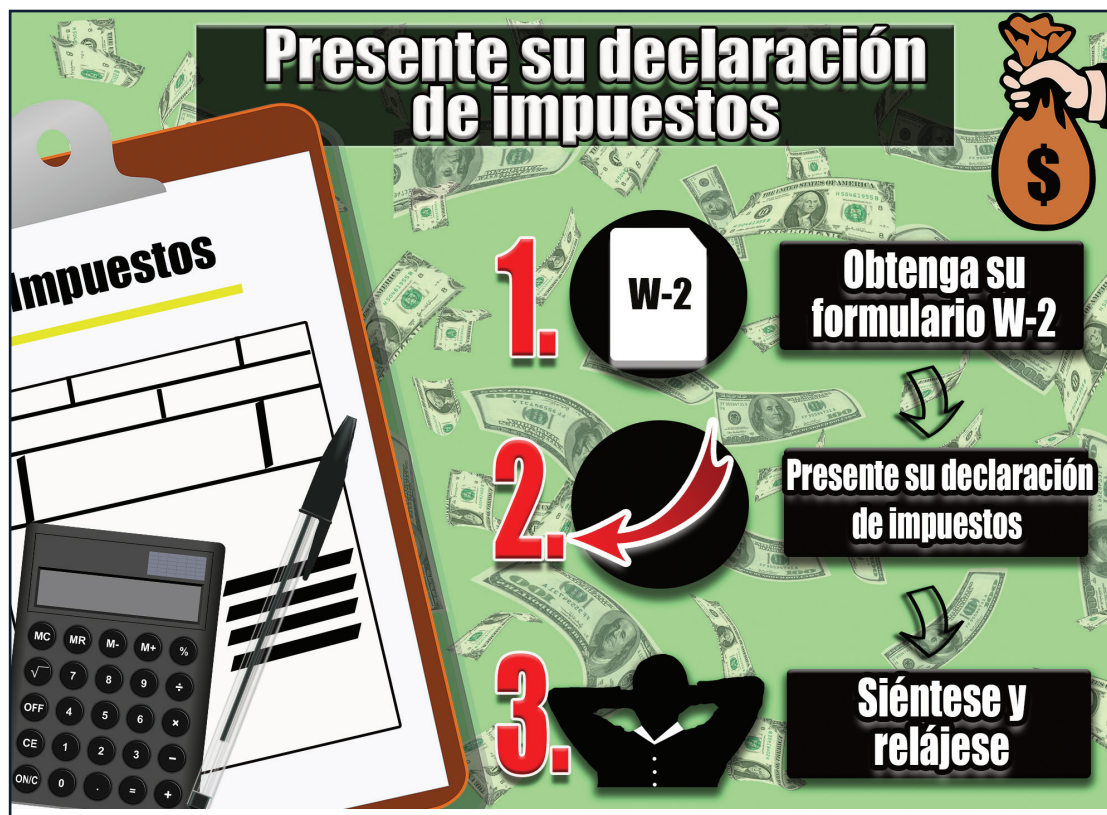
Él aún no está seguro de con quién presentará su declaración de impuestos, pero dijo que lo más probable es que vaya con el contador de impuestos de sus padres.

Peña dijo que quiere saber cómo se determina si debe dinero, y de ser así, cuánto tiempo tiene para poder pagarlo.

"La pregunta más importante que tendría es, solo como, si recibimos dinero o debemos dinero en nuestros impuestos, o sea, cuánto tiempo tenemos para pagarlos, y o sea, realmente cuándo se recibe la cantidad que se supone que recibiremos", Peña dijo. "Sé que mucha gente no se da cuenta de cuánto deben en sus impuestos, así que, como [un declarante] primerizo, quisiera saber si debo dinero: ¿Cuánto tiempo tengo y cuánto debo?"

Experto de UTRGV Siamak Javadi, un profesor de finanzas de UTRGV, abordó algunas de las dudas que preguntó Peña.

Javadi dijo que es importante declarar impuestos porque "los



Roxanna Miranda/GRÁFICO THE RIDER

impuestos son obligatorios, así que no hay manera de evadirlos".

"Si no pagan sus impuestos, el IRS irá tras de ustedes", él dijo. "No importa cuánto odien pagar impuestos".

Desde una perspectiva ética, Javadi dijo que pagar impuestos es un deber civil.

Estamos usando toda la infraestructura que el gobierno indica que los impuestos locales nos proporcionan, como las carreteras, puentes y todas esas construcciones", él dijo. "Así que, estos servicios necesitan ser financiados, y así es como colaboramos. Contribuimos para el bienestar de la sociedad".

El profesor de finanzas dijo que al pagar impuestos, los ciudadanos crean una "red de seguridad social", como el Medicare y las prestaciones por desempleo.

"Como sociedad, necesitamos proporcionar algún tipo de red de seguridad en caso de que alguien pierda su trabajo debido a circunstancias inoportunas", Javadi dijo. "Así que, también existe un componente moral al pagar los impuestos".

Se le preguntó cómo es que los

estudiantes pueden asegurarse de no cometer errores cuando presenten su declaración de impuestos.

"Asumo que la mayoría de los estudiantes no tienen tantos bienes, entonces la declaración de impuestos que deben preparar es simple y muy sencilla", Javadi contestó.

Él dijo que la confusión surge entre personas que cuentan con más bienes, como estudiantes

quizá deba hablar con un contador de impuestos".

Él dijo que los formularios de impuestos no tienen mucho espacio para equivocaciones desde el cambio de formato del 2017.

"Solo deben hacer su formulario W-2, también sus deducciones estandarizadas y pueden surgir errores, pero hay compañías que pueden ayudar", Javadi dijo.

El profesor de finanzas alienta a que los estudiantes usen los servicios gratuitos que la universidad ofrece para ayudarles a presentar sus declaraciones de impuestos.

UTRGV se ha asociado con United Way y H&R Block para ayudar a que los estudiantes puedan presentar su declaración de impuestos con el software de MyFreeTaxes, según el [sitio web](#) del Centro de Servicios Estudiantiles.

Javadi aconseja que los estudiantes que presentarán su declaración de impuestos por primera vez mantengan una mentalidad positiva y recuerden que ahora están contribuyendo a la sociedad.

"No lo vean desde una perspectiva siniestra, como 'Oye, el gobierno está tratando de quitarme mi

dinero", él dijo. "Veanlo como que están pagando su parte. Han estado usando lo que la sociedad les ha proporcionado, las calles y el sentido de seguridad y todo. ... Así que, sí van detrás de mucho dinero que están ganando, pero también necesitan contribuir. ... Tienen que verlo desde esa perspectiva".

Javadi alienta a los estudiantes a asegurarse de que entiendan sus impuestos y pidan ayuda cuando la necesiten.

"Asegúrense de que entiendan los impuestos", él dijo. "No los retrasen, y no quieren meterse en problemas con el IRS. Así que, una vez que tengan edad para presentar su declaración de impuestos, háganlo de manera correcta y apropiada, y no lo retrasen".

Se le preguntó si tiene consejos financieros para los estudiantes. Javadi respondió que los estudiantes deberían invertir cuando son jóvenes porque tienen mucho tiempo por delante.

"No se atasquen con los impuestos", él dijo. "No pueden evadirlos. Como el viejo dicho dice, 'En este mundo solo hay dos cosas seguras: la muerte y los impuestos'. Así que supérenlo. Pero tienen el tiempo de su lado, así que inviertan todo lo que puedan".

Javadi alienta a los estudiantes a no mover el dinero que pongan en sus inversiones.

"Ustedes necesitan invertir, y no deben invertir en solo unas acciones. Solo inviertan en una inversión pasiva, como un fondo índice, y olvidense de ese dinero", él dijo, "Solo dejen que fluya. No tienen que monitorear el mercado bursátil todos los días. Solo dejen que fluya".

Los estudiantes interesados en presentar sus declaraciones de impuestos de manera gratuita pueden visitar www.myfreetaxes.com o ir a U Central en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg hasta el 6 de marzo para recibir ayuda paso a paso de un contador de impuestos de United Way certificado por VITA.

U Central está abierto entre las 9:00 y 16:00 horas de lunes a viernes.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

Pregúntale al experto: Cuarta de una serie

mayores.

"Si un estudiante mayor ha estado trabajando por un tiempo, y ahora regresó a la universidad y tiene una hipoteca de vivienda, unas cuantas propiedades e inversiones en el mercado bursátil, puede resultar un poco más complicado", Javadi dijo. "Esa sería una situación en la que el estudiante

scinded the Mexico City Policy, which prohibits nongovernmental organizations from receiving U.S. funding for abortion services.

While various states have attempted to defund organizations that offer

abortion services, those institutions also provide other services, meaning this executive action is important for women's health, McNeely said.

"This memorandum is attempting to remove those bans or barriers, if

you will, in order to allow women to regain access to that type of health care," she said.

Orders
Continued from Page 1

coverage that people get," she said. In a memorandum, Biden also re-



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UTRGV men's golf returns to competition

Karina Rodriguez
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Men's Golf Team will be competing this Saturday at the H-E-B Tournament of Champions in Corpus Christi after a tournament last Tuesday at LaTour Intercollegiate in Louisiana.

UTRGV Men's Golf Team Head Coach Joseph Tate said he is excited to return to competition.

"[I am] excited. It's about time," Tate said. "It's been a long-awaited return, and we're all ready to get back out there and prove that you can travel [safely] and compete safely and return to some normal athletic activity."

He said COVID-19 brought change to protocols.

"I think just adjusting to getting your temperature checks every day and adjusting to wearing masks, then adjusting to the protocols [like] cleaning your hands," Tate said. "We're outdoors. So, I think once we get outside, we're pretty good. But the weight room stuff, and just general life, is still an adjustment."

Tate encourages players to appreciate their time as student athletes.

"Enjoy it," he said. "I think this puts things into perspective quite a bit. [It shows] that

you don't have forever to do this. You don't have all the time in the world, and sometimes things get interrupted. And so, I'm just trying to explain to them to really enjoy the moment."

UTRGV redshirt freshman Andres Cortez said the team is lucky to play this season.

"I'm super excited," Cortez said. "The atmosphere within the team is just buzzing. We couldn't be happier. But, like

any other team out there, every tournament could eventually be our last. So, we're not taking anything for granted. We're lucky enough to have a season, so we're just taking it day by day but [still] super excited."

He said the team's unity allows them to navigate the pandemic.

"I think having our team as close as we are with each other [has helped]," Cortez said.

Tate believes it is a privilege to compete during the pandemic.

"Well, I hope that they enjoy the return to competition," he said. "I think that we're very fortunate to do so. I know that not everybody and everything is back to normal yet. ... So really, I just hope that my guys enjoy the fact that they get to do what they love, and they get to go out on the golf course and compete."

I just hope that my guys enjoy the fact that they get to do what they love, and they get to go out on the golf course and compete."

**--Andres Cortez
Redshirt freshman**



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Redshirt freshman Andres Cortez strikes the ball at Los Lagos Golf Course in Edinburg on Feb. 10.

This Week in Athletics



Volleyball

--6 p.m. Tuesday vs. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi at the South Texas Showdown in Corpus Christi

Women's Soccer

--6 p.m. Thursday vs. Seattle University in Edinburg
11 a.m. Saturday vs. Seattle University in Edinburg

Men's Soccer

--2 p.m. Saturday vs. California Baptist University in Riverside, California

Women's Tennis

--1 p.m. Friday vs. Sam Houston University in Huntsville

--10:30 a.m. Saturday vs. Sam Houston University in Houston

Men's Tennis

--TBD Friday and Saturday at the H-E-B Tournament of Champions in Corpus Christi

Baseball

--1 p.m. Friday vs. Lamar University at the Al Ogletree Classic in Edinburg

2 p.m. Saturday vs. Lamar University at the Al Ogletree

Classic in Edinburg

Men's Golf

--8 a.m. Monday in the LaTour Intercollegiate tournament in Mathews, Louisiana

Women's Basketball

5 p.m. Friday and Saturday vs. Seattle University in Seattle

Men's Basketball

--7 p.m. Friday and Saturday vs. Seattle University in Edinburg

--Compiled by Karina Rodriguez

BHM

Continued from Page 3

By observing Black History Month through virtual events, the UTRGV community can be brought together and learn, said Andrea Asare, a sec-

ond-year nursing major.

"The UTRGV community will be able to know more about the Black community, what we fought for and also understand where we're coming from," Asare said. "I really think it's just the way of bringing people together, too."

She believes if people educated them-

selves more on the Black community, then they would be able to help more.

"Let's just say the police officers with George Floyd, and everything, if more people were more knowledgeable, or they got to know more about the Black community and about human rights, I feel certain things wouldn't have hap-

pened, or certain things wouldn't have escalated quickly," Asare said.

For a list of Black History Month events and pre-registration, visit the [schedule of events](#).

HOMECOMING

Continued from Page 3

also, like, organizations, and it's been a little bit, like, different from, like, what I, kind of like, expected, like, in person," Rangel said. "It's my first year, so that's, like, I really don't have high expectations, but they're trying to create the atmosphere you would have in person."

She encourages her fellow freshmen

to participate in online events.

Noel Rangel, a sociology senior, transferred to UTRGV before the pandemic and had the chance to experience Homecoming in person.

"It was really cool," Rangel said. "You know, entering UTRGV, I didn't know how the events were going to happen, or how they were gonna play out, but they were huge and they were super fun."

He said he wants to attend the virtu-

al tailgate and dance party because he loves to dance.

"I think that it's a great way of giving us some normalcy," Rangel said. "I know that virtually, everything is not the same, but if I can be on the screen seeing my colleagues, friends and the faculty, it brings me joy that I am still able to see them through Zoom."

He said he appreciates virtual events and that it is a great opportunity to meet

new people and win prizes.

"I know, it's not the same as in person, but try to attend the online events," Rangel said. "They're pretty fun. I just imagine how they're going to be, hopefully, in person sometime soon. ... If you're a freshman, you still have four more years to go. So, you'll probably see an event in person sometime soon."

Department prepares for virtual projects



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Theatre Department

Theatre majors Eric Bailon (from left), Alessandra Almanza and Elijah Hernandez perform "She Stoops to Conquer" in November 2019.

Adalia Garza

THE RIDER

After a long pause on live performances due to COVID-19 protocols, the UTRGV Theatre Department will host a series of virtual performances this semester.

What seemed like a halt in production was actually a sequence of work relayed through other avenues in performance. Peter Mikolasky, interim chair and associate professor of the Theatre Department, explained how students were able to expand the use of their talent into other aspects of performance.

"We have film, radio, voice elements, we have all these other elements and genres and ways to go about doing this," Mikolasky said. "I think we have really opened ourselves up to other avenues that we can pursue on a yearly and seasonal basis instead of just doing live theater performances."

This semester, performanc-

es will be hosted through a streaming service known as Vimeo. Most of their past productions and future productions will be posted for the audience to view online.

Mikolasky noted upcoming virtual events happening within UTRGV Theatre and the Latino Theatre Initiatives, which is an organization on campus.

"This spring, for example, the Latino Theatre Initiatives have just finished their filming, and they have a show that they are sending their play to a Canadian theatre festival," he said. "People can watch that and support the theatre. Professor [Jennifer] Saxton is working on [the] "Out of the Canon" series of monologues and scenes that we're in development for right now. We also have two more productions happening after

“
This was the first time students were coming back together to do something, even if it meant we were wearing masks in the show and were apart.

--Priscylla Guzman
mass communication senior

Spring Break. One of them is the directing showcase, like we had in the fall, and then a second showcase, which will lead us into the summer.”

Priscylla Guzman, mass communication senior and vice president of the Latino Theatre Initiatives organization, said the upcoming virtual theatre festival is a comeback.

"This was the comeback because this was the first time students were coming back together to do something, even if it meant we were wearing masks in the show and were apart," Guzman said. "The festival starts next week. ... You buy the link for \$5 and that link will work from the start of the festival to the end."

Students, patrons, and staff are encouraged to support the UTRGV theatre and Latino Theatre Initiatives by viewing the performances on Vimeo.

Alexandra Gonzalez,

UTRGV Theatre business manager, said the department intends to reach more people through an online format.

"We are trying to get the word out as best as possible," she said. "Since it is not an in-person event, we are hoping that it will be able to reach more people. Since it is streaming, they can watch it anytime that it is streaming. Everything on Vimeo is free of charge, the only exception is the LTI event."

To support the UTRGV Theatre and LTI, students can access recorded plays free of charge through the link to their Vimeo accounts. To view recorded plays by the Theatre Department, click [here](#).

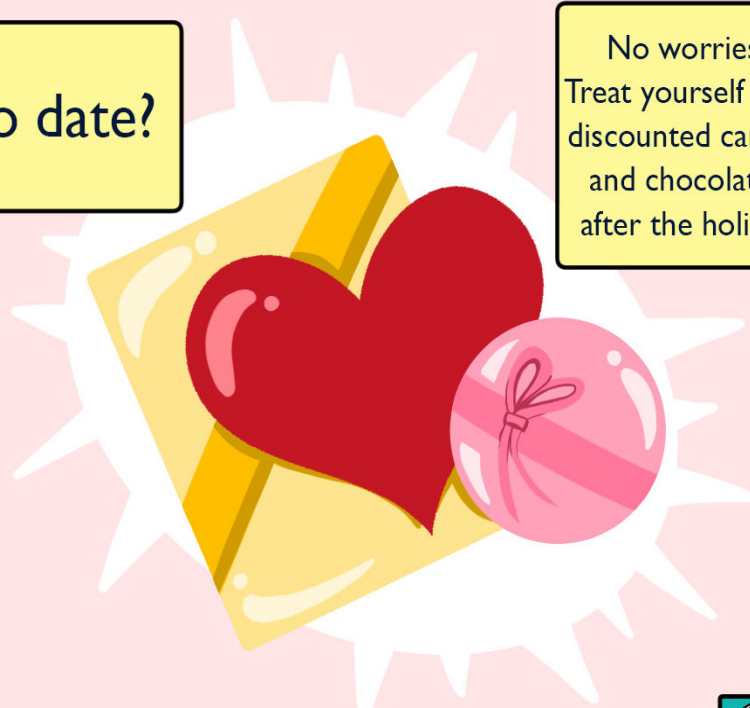
LTI will also participate in the Festival De La Bête Noire, which showcases several theatre organizations across the world. To purchase tickets for the Festival De La Bête Noire, click [here](#).

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza

No date?

No worries!
Treat yourself with discounted candies and chocolates after the holiday.



ASK
Continued from Page 1
and straightforward.”

Javadi said confusion arises among people, such as older students, who have more assets.

“If an older student that has been working for quite some time, and now is back in college and has a house mortgage, a couple of properties and investments in the stock market, that would be a little more complicated,” he said. “That would be a situation where a student might want to talk to a tax accountant.”

Javadi said tax forms do not have much room for error since the change in format in 2017.

“You just have to have your W-2 form, and do your standardized deduction and there can be errors, but there

are companies that can help,” he said.

The finance professor encourages students to utilize the free services that the university offers to help file their tax returns.

UTRGV has partnered with United Way and H&R Block to help students file through the software MyFreeTaxes, according to the Student Services Center website.

Javadi’s advice for students who are filing their tax returns for the first time is to keep a positive mindset and remember that they are now contributing to society.

“Don’t look at this from a sinister perspective, like, ‘Hey, the government is trying to take my money,’” Javadi said. “Think of it as you are paying your share. You’re using whatever this society has been providing for you, the

roads and the sense of security and all ... So, they do come after a lot of money that you’re making, but you need to contribute, too. ... You need to look at it from that perspective.”

He encourages students to ensure that they understand their taxes and ask for help when necessary.

“Make sure you understand the taxes,” Javadi said. “Do not delay it, and you do not want to mess with the IRS. So, once you are at the age where you have to file, do it correctly, do it properly and don’t delay it.”

Asked if he had any financial advice for students, he replied that students should invest when they are young because they have time on their hands.

“Don’t get bogged down with taxes,” Javadi said. “You can’t fight it. Like the old saying goes, ‘There are two things

certain in life: death and taxes.’ So get over it. But you have time on your side, so invest every little bit that you can.”

He encourages students to not move the money they put into investments.

“You people need to invest, and you don’t need to invest in a single stock. Just invest in a passive investment, like an index fund, and forget that money,” Javadi said. “Just let it roll. You do not have to monitor the stock market every day. Just let it roll.”

Students interested in filing their tax returns for free can visit www.my-freetaxes.com or go to U Central on the Brownsville or Edinburg campuses through March 6 to get step-by-step help from a VITA-certified United Way tax consultant.

U Central is open between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ENROLLMENT
Continued from Page 3

their tuition and mandatory fees are guaranteed for four years; that has not changed,” she said. “I think that’s something that a lot of times, it’s lost sight of, and so we continue to remind our students, and especially new students, that we have that four-year guarantee.”

Late last spring, after the pandemic hit, the university increased the income threshold for the Tuition Advantage grant to \$95,000 or less.

“We were able to reach a few more students with that increase,” Hinojosa said. “And then, of course, the CARES funding that we received. We provided cash grants in both the fall and the spring and last summer. We used UTRGV money to provide some

tuition incentives for students, as well. So, we continue to support our students with any funding that we receive from the federal government or the state through this pandemic.”

CARES stands for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. It is a \$2.2 trillion federal stimulus bill meant to alleviate the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Treasury Department.

Parwinder Grewal, executive vice president for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development and dean of the Graduate College, said there are 5,572 students enrolled in the graduate college, an increase of 30 students compared to the preliminary numbers at the beginning of the semester.

“This is a definite increase,” Grewal said. “The way we look at the increase

is from last spring. So, from last spring, [the] increase is 46%.”

He said there are 380 doctoral students, 5,114 master students and 78 post-master’s students.

“That means they are getting a master’s degree,” Grewal said. “They are engaged in either [graduate] certificates, or a few take another master’s programs. So, we put them all together as post-master’s students. Those are 78.”

He said the doctorate in mathematics, statistics and interdisciplinary applications has been approved and will start in Fall 2021.

“Everything is done about it,” Grewal said. “It will start in the Fall. The doctorate in nursing practice has also been approved, and that will also start in Fall 2021.”

He said the graduate college is doing

a few things to grow enrollment numbers.

“No. 1, we are continuing to waive GRE and GMAT requirements for most programs,” Grewal said. “No. 2, we offered a spring relief package to all students. Third, we also offered a \$1,000 dean’s scholarship to all qualified new students. These are the three key things that we are doing this spring semester.”

He said he appreciates students who are interested in UTRGV.

“We are committed to their success,” Grewal said. “We will do everything possible to help support the students during this difficult time, and we are here at the graduate college to listen to the students and to help them with whatever help they need.”



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