

Hospitals prepare for post Spring Break

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I'm lifting the mask mandate and letting businesses open at full capacity.

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Student-friendly coffee shops

Jacqueline Peraza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

South Texas Health System officials are preparing for a potential increase in COVID-19 cases in the weeks after the lifting of the mask mandate by Gov. Greg Abbott and the Spring Break holiday.

Lance Ames, CEO of South Texas Health System Edinburg and South Texas Children's Hospital, said people who gather in group settings without taking precautions continue to put themselves at risk.

"From our health system standpoint, we are ready for the worst-case scenario," Ames said. "But we really do hope that the Rio Grande Valley community stays safe while having fun."

In the case of an increase in positive cases, he said the most important resource is staffing.

"Right now, we are in a good place from a staffing standpoint," Ames said. "So, if we were to have a surge of volume, we would be ready. Usually, surges come a couple of weeks after mass gathering events. We would be able to work

together with the state to increase our staffing resources if needed."

He said the health



David Pike/ UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

People wait in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine last Friday outside the UTRGV Clinical Education Building in Harlingen.

system is also prepared with a large supply of personal protective equipment.

"From a supply and PPE standpoint, our health system already has a very large stockpile ready to go in case we were to have a sudden influx of COVID-19-related cases," Ames said. "We are doing everything we can to be ready to take care of our community."

Drake Severns, a patient care technician at Edinburg

Regional Medical Center, said he and his co-workers are expecting the ICU and COVID-19 units to reach full capacity in the upcoming weeks.

"We're preparing for the worst," Severns said. "We're all a little hesitant."

He said he began his work in the field during the pandemic and has seen patients of all ages infected with the virus.

"It affects all ages," Severns said. "It's not just some pick-

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I really would hope that everyone can remember where we've been and learn from what we've been through.

-Lance Ames

CEO South Texas Health System Edinburg and South Texas Children's Hospital

Professor explains first step in establishing Starbase

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk needs 10% of Boca Chica Village residents' signatures on a petition as the first step in his plan to turn the unincorporated city into Starbase, Texas, a UTRGV professor says.

Asked what the steps are to establish a city, Clyde Barrow, a UTRGV political science professor and department chair, replied that the process is specified in the Texas Constitution.

"The way that you create a new city in Texas is specified in the state constitution and that process really has very little role for Elon Musk to play," Barrow said.

He said there are several different types of cities provided for in the constitution. The two main ones are called home rule cities and general-law cities.

"To be a home rule city, which would be like Edinburg or McAllen, where they have their own municipal charter, it has to have at least a population of 5,000, which Boca Chica does not," Barrow said. "So, Boca Chica would come in at the lowest end of what can be a city, which is called a Type C general-law city, because its population is not even 600."

To be considered a Type B or A city, the population of the region must be at least 600, and Boca Chica is not.

Barrow said the process for becoming a Type C city is fairly simple.

"Somebody has to circulate a petition among the residents of the town," he said. "They have to gather at least 10% of the signatures of registered voters in that geographical area. They take that to the county judge, which would be the Cameron County judge. If he certifies those signatures, then the county is required to hold an election on whether or not to incorporate as a city. And, essentially, if a majority of those voting vote yes, it becomes a Type C general-law city."

Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. addressed Musk's plan in his March 8 news conference.

"There was a tweet where he said he wanted to open up or establish Starbase or Star City," Treviño said. "I forgot what it's called. I'm not on Twitter. But he's bought out most of [the residents' properties], and I know there's still some individuals that live out there. He'll have to follow the same rules and regulations of any group that would like to incorporate. So, no special exception for SpaceX just because that's what he'd like to do."



Roxanna Miranda/ THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's plans to turn the unincorporated community of Boca Chica Village into Starbase, Texas. UTRGV experts and Cameron County officials detailed the rules and steps the proposal must follow.

In a March 2 news release, Treviño's office said Cameron County was officially approached by SpaceX regarding Musk's interest in incorporating Boca Chica Village into the City of Starbase, Texas.

"Cameron County will process any appropriate petitions in conformity with applicable law," Treviño stated in the news release.

Essentially, the next step lies in the hands of the residents of Boca Chica Village to decide whether or not it will become a city and if it will change its name.

"Theoretically, somebody like Elon Musk could pay somebody, you know, to gather signatures and act as an organizer, but that would really be the

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

Today
UREC Virtual POUND
Join University Recreation for a virtual group fitness class from 6:30 to 7:30

p.m. via Zoom. A certified group fitness instructor will guide the session through a full-body workout with lightly weighted drumsticks. RSVP is available on VLink.

Women's Recovery
Join a **nine-week support group for women** to come together, receive support and empower one another at noon via Zoom, hosted by the **Collegiate Recovery Program**. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for the Zoom link.

Tuesday
'The Office' Trivia
The **Student Union** will host **"The Office" Trivia** virtual event from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Winners will receive a prize. RSVP is available on VLink.

Open Recovery
Join a **support group** for anyone who is seeking recovery from substance use, addictive behaviors and/or process addictions at 3 p.m. Tuesdays and at noon Fridays, hosted by the **Collegiate Recovery Program**. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for the Zoom link.

Future is Female Series: Part 1
Listen to **female UTRGV College of Liberal Arts alumni** from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom as part of the **Future is Female Series**, hosted by the **Civic Engagement Alliance** and the **Political Science Association**. Attendees will be given a chance to win a set of **Apple AirPods, UTRGV merch and other prizes**. RSVP

is available on VLink.
Wednesday
Let's Talk Women's History
The **Late Afternoon Talk Show: Let's Talk Women's History** will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. to discuss and learn more about gender and women's studies, history and current events. The talk will feature **Cathryn Merla-Watson** and **Friederike Bruehoefener**, co-directors of the Gender and Women's Studies Program, and Assistant Professor **Lucas Espinoza** of the Criminal Justice department. The event is hosted by the **Civic Engagement Alliance** and **Campus Activities Board**. RSVP is available on VLink.

Workshop Wednesdays: Sex Education
The **Student Leadership Academy** and **Access for Sex-Education** will host a guest speaker from **Access Esperanza Clinics** to share what resources are available to the community from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Smart Recovery
Join the **Collegiate Recovery Program** for a **self-management and recovery training**, a non-spiritual based peer support group at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for the Zoom link.

Thursday
The People Series
Learn about the legacy of American social reformer and women's rights activist **Susan B. Anthony** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by the **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center**. RSVP is available on VLink.

Day by Day Support Group
Join a **harm-reduction-based support group** for anyone interested in reducing their use at 10 a.m., hosted by the **Collegiate Recovery Program**. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for the Zoom link.

Disney+ Watch Party: 'Hidden Figures'
The **Student Union** will show **"Hidden Figures,"** a film about a team of female African American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA, from 5 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Growth Support Group
Join a **peer-to-peer support group** focused on various areas of growth, such as self-esteem, well-being, setting boundaries, etc., at noon, hosted by the **Collegiate Recovery Program**. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for the Zoom link.

Friday
SGA Meeting
Voice your concerns as the **Student Government Association** discusses matters and issues pertinent to the UTRGV community from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

Saturday
'Out of the Canon'
The **UTRGV Theatre Department** will livestream **"Out of the Canon,"** a bilingual celebration of women, "Latinx," Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ through monologues and songs from Saturday through March 29. RSVP is available at utrgv.edu/theatre.
--Compiled by Omar E. Zapata

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Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:
EDINBURG CAMPUS
1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170
Phone: (956) 665-2541
Fax: (956) 665-7122
BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
1 West University Blvd.
Student Union 2.16
Phone: (956) 882-5143
Fax: (956) 882-5176
Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu
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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



Reporter Valeria Henderson

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 1 and 7.

March 1
11:30 a.m.: A staff member lent a university-owned laptop computer to a student in the work study program in Fall 2020. The man, who is currently not a registered student, has failed to return the laptop.

March 2
7:31 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed on the cameras a man and woman in the area of the Texas Southmost College baseball field who were walking toward University Boulevard. U.S. Border Patrol agents were able to detain the individuals, who were from Cuba, without incident.

11:20 a.m.: A staff member at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus received a call at her office phone from an unknown man. The staff member found the phone call suspicious due to the man acting as if he knew her personally. She wanted to document the incident.

2:23 p.m.: An officer observed an

elderly woman fall on the stairs at the Medical Education Building on the Edinburg campus. The woman had visible lacerations on her knee and index finger. Emergency Medical Services arrived and transported her to a local hospital for further evaluation.

March 4
6:18 a.m.: A student resident accidentally struck the entry gate to the Casa Bella Apartments in Brownsville with his car. The vehicle sustained minor damage, and there were no injuries reported.

5:11 p.m.: An officer observed a student in a verbal argument with her husband in Lot E-4 on the Edinburg campus. Officers made contact with the couple and determined there had not been physical assault. The couple left the area without incident.

March 5
10:41 a.m.: An officer responded to damage to the Lamar Building on the Edinburg campus. An investigation concluded the building had been struck by a vehicle. The case is under investigation.

12:53 p.m.: An officer responded to a

staff member who had been stung by a bee at the baseball stadium on the Edinburg campus while working there. The staff member was treated at the UT Health RGV Employee Health clinic.

4:53 p.m.: An officer on foot patrol observed markings on the concrete pillars under the covered walkway written in chalk on the Edinburg campus. A work order was placed to have the markings removed. The case is under investigation.

11:36 p.m.: A custodial staff member reported coming in contact with a man and woman inside a dance studio at the Performing Arts Center on the Edinburg campus. The man and woman identified themselves as students and left the area without incident when asked to do so by the custodial staff.

March 7
8:45 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed on the cameras a man climb over the U.S. border fence located near the UTRGV Facilities Building on the Brownsville campus. A U.S. Border Patrol agent arrived and detained the man, who was from Cuba, without incident.
--Compiled by Sol Garcia

MANDATE *Continued from Page 1*

and-choose virus. It's hard to see because, you know, many [patients] have underlying conditions, specifically here in the Rio Grande Valley. We have major diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and it's those people who we see getting affected the most, but it can happen to anybody."

Asked what advice he has for ways to stay safe, he replied to continue to wear masks, social distance and constantly practice proper hand washing.

"Our masks and social distancing have been helping us decrease the spread of

infection," Severns said. "What I would suggest, more specifically, is to double mask or try to protect your eyes because COVID-19 can infect you through your mucous membrane. ... And hand washing is the most important key to preventing infection and stopping the spread of germs."

Ames said it is important to safely go out and find joy but reminds the community that the pandemic is not over yet.

"There really is a real threat to COVID-19 still, and as more and more vaccinations come out we can sometimes get a sense of false security from that," he said. "I really would hope that

everyone can remember where we've been and learn from what we've been through."

Ames said as much as the public may want to move on with life, it must stay cognizant of the situation.

"We still need to be strong," he said. "We need to keep practicing those simple things, like wearing masks, even if it comes with that peer pressure thing, 'If no one else is doing it, I guess I don't have to.' ... We need to think about our neighbors. If we catch the disease, we can spread it to our neighbors. If we're not worried about ourselves, we should at least worry about our neighbors."

Have a story idea?

Let us know at

882-5143 or 665-5085

2021-2022 SGA ELECTIONS



Roxanna Miranda/ THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Shown (from left) are Edinburg vice presidential candidate Daniela Ramirez, presidential candidate Michael White, Brownsville vice presidential candidate Leticia Irene Villarreal, Edinburg vice presidential candidate Anacette Cantu, presidential candidate José Pablo Rojas and vice presidential candidate Yahia Omar Al-Qudah.

SGA elections begin

Jamejdra Holverstott

THE RIDER

As Spring Break ends and students return to class, the Student Government Association begins its annual election process. This year's elections will take place today through March 31.

SGA Elections Committee Adviser Jodie Dominguez said the association works to advocate for UTRGV students.

"The Student Government Association is the voice for our students," Dominguez said. "The Student Government Association advocates for our students, and they host senate meetings, town halls, and different opportunities for students to get involved with them."

The Student Government Association is composed of three branches: executive, legislative and judicial, according to its website. The students running on the executive ticket and for the senator-at-large positions are as follows:

Executive branch

Ticket 1: José Pablo Rojas, president; Yahia Omar Al-Qudah, vice president in Brownsville; and Anacette Cantu, vice president in Edinburg.

Ticket 2: Michael White, president; Daniela Ramirez,

vice president in Edinburg; and Leticia Irene Villarreal, vice president in Brownsville.

Senator-at-large positions

Alan Garcia, senator-at-large in Edinburg; Megan Samantha Solis, senator-at-large in Edinburg; Angela Cantu, senator-at-large in Brownsville.

Students running unopposed will automatically assume the position they are running for. Unfilled positions will be left open throughout the year to be filled by recommended potential candidates.

For more information on the SGA elections and candidates, watch the debate at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday on the association's Facebook Live.

Carlo Flores, vice president for the Brownsville campus, said, normally, not all representatives could be from the same campus.

"However, with COVID-19, most of our members are also taking courses virtually," Flores said. "And so, it's hard to say that one individual [is] specifically at one campus versus the other."

As a result, the location-based requirements for SGA positions were suspended.

Students will be able to vote beginning 8 a.m. today via email. Voting will close at 11:59 p.m. March 31.

Alexandra Smith-Macias, a

graduate student and former SGA vice president, said students should consider candidates' platforms when voting.

"I think you gotta look into what [each candidate's] platform is, and this is where, I guess, it gets a little tedious," Smith-Macias said. "Because there are things that student government can do and then, there's things that student government cannot do."

"Whenever you are looking at the candidates, you want to look at something that you think is achievable. And sometimes, you might have to look into things that the university has in place that might allow them to pursue that platform."

She said students should vote for someone that can uphold their platform.

"Student government, frankly, hasn't had a high turnout rate in their elections," Smith-Macias said. "So, every vote counts."

She said voting raises awareness of the SGA.

"The more the students vote, the more real it is, the more actual it is, that now a lot of students are being engaged," Smith-Macias said. "It will in turn help the students, too, because they'll know what student government is."

For more information on the SGA elections and candidates, watch the debate at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday on the association's Facebook Live.

American Rescue Plan Poli sci professor explains what the legislation means



Architect of the Capitol

On March 10, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, which included new changes the Senate had passed a few days before. President Biden signed the bill into law on March 11. These changes include new limitations on who will receive the third stimulus check.

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

On March 11, President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which will provide eligible individuals with direct payments of \$1,400.

"I believe this is, and most people I think do as well, this historic legislation is about rebuilding the backbone of this country and giving people of this nation, working people, the middle-class folks, people who built the country, a fighting chance," Biden said in a [White House livestream](#). "That's what the essence of this is."

On March 10, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill following a Senate version that had been passed with some changes, including new limitations on who would receive the third stimulus check.

Similar to the previous legislation, individual tax filers making up to \$75,000 per year qualify to receive a stimulus check, which will be \$1,400 this time around. Married joint filers making up to \$150,000 will get \$2,800. Recipients may also receive \$1,400 multiplied by the number of dependents of the taxpayer for the latest tax return on file.

The new law will provide unemployment checks of \$300 to qualifying Americans through September. The legislation will also provide funds for schools

and institutions of higher education, COVID-19 vaccinations and agriculture and nutrition programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Daniel Chomsky, a political science associate professor at UTRGV, said the changes to the legislation are modest or fairly trivial.

"The original package was passed in the House and went to the Senate and in the Senate, the most conservative Senate Democrats, particularly Joe Manchin of West Virginia, demanded some changes," Chomsky said. "The changes were actually quite modest. ... There were a couple changes. The most important one was narrowing or lowering the income threshold for beneficiaries of direct checks."

He said this package has a lot of advantages over the last one issued in December 2020.

"The December checks were worth about \$600 per person; these are much more generous at \$1,400 a person," Chomsky said. "They slightly narrow the standard for when you would receive it or for who would receive it. That is, they lowered the income thresholds for beneficiaries but the change is not that dramatic."

He said the reason for the changes is that the Democrats narrowly govern the Senate with a 50-50 split, with essentially a one-vote advantage be-

See **STIMULUS**, Page 8

'Whatever vaccine you can get, take it'

Omar E. Zapata

THE RIDER

On Feb. 27, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an [emergency use authorization](#) for the J&J/Janssen vaccine, also known as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, for the prevention of COVID-19.

Dr. Scott Spear, medical director of Student & Employee Health and an associate professor of pediatrics, told The Rider the main differences between the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and other vaccines are the efficacy rate, the single dose instead of two and how it does not have to be kept refrigerated as cold.

Spear said two-dose vaccines, such as the Pfizer and Moderna, both use messenger RNA so the body can create an immune response.

"So, the mRNA, it has a carrier that

gets into the cells and then the messenger RNA produces ... proteins," he said. "It assembles the proteins that the body needs to [identify] to make antibodies to be protected [against COVID-19]."

Instead of using mRNA, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a viral vector, Spear said.

"It uses adenovirus, which is a common virus," he said. "The virus is not infective, but it has the ability to, again, put these proteins into the cells that, then, the cells can produce enough of the antigen that the immune system needs to see. ... But what the vaccines do is cause the body to produce antibodies that help protect the person against the live virus, because it goes and fights the part of the virus that attaches to our cells."

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is about 85% effective in preventing severe to critical COVID-19 occurring at



David Pike/ UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Maggie Juarez, office manager at St. Anthony Catholic Church, receives the Pfizer vaccine March 5 at the UTRGV Clinical Education Building in Harlingen.

least 28 days after vaccination, according to the [FDA](#).

Spear said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not quite as effective as the two-dose mRNA vaccine, but it is still effective as it prevents death and is close

to what the mRNA vaccines do for preventing severe COVID-19 disease.

The side effects from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are similar to the

See **JOHNSON**, Page 8

YAQUERO VOICE



GREG ABBOTT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS

On March 8, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What is your opinion on Gov. Greg Abbott reopening Texas businesses 100% and lifting the statewide mask mandate?" The results are shown below.

facebook

I DISAGREE WITH ABBOTT 103

I AGREE WITH ABBOTT 12

twitter

26 I DISAGREE WITH ABBOTT

1 I AGREE WITH ABBOTT

Instagram

I DISAGREE WITH ABBOTT 41

I AGREE WITH ABBOTT 4

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER



Poor Decisions



I'm lifting the mask mandate and letting businesses open at full capacity.



Knowledge is power



Adalia Garza
THE RIDER

Her words will forever be etched in my mind, "Knowledge is power. Once you learn something, no one can ever take it away. No one can take your education from you."

It was one of the most powerful truths I had ever learned. Time and money can be lost. We can be deprived of food and materials. Much can only be kept for a moment, but knowledge lasts forever.

This teacher was speaking to a group of students that simply didn't understand at the time the power of education. They slumbered in their passions and were fatigued only enough to dream small dreams. I was sitting nearby when she said those words through an imaginary megaphone that echoed into an abyss of unentered doors and possibilities.

Those words ran through my mind over and over. I kept thinking to myself, "I

can learn anything I want and the knowledge will always be mine."

It was extremely fascinating to know this truth. It was liberating. Finally, something that can never be lost.

Since learning this, I have dedicated much of my time sharing this with others. When my classmates became apathetic in certain classes, I would remind them of the teacher's words.

I was insistent until it clicked. You can be anything you want to be, you can do anything you want to do, you can go anywhere you want to go, and the key to do and be all of these things is knowledge.

Think about that one family member you have who can do it all. They can fix your car, fix the drainage system in your home, build cabinets, can get to any place without a GPS. These are people who dedicated their time to learn everything about everything.

Maybe they didn't have the opportunity to pursue higher education like many of us. Nonetheless, they chose to learn.

Living in the Rio Grande Valley, our culture teaches us to be better than our parents, to aim higher than they did.

I believe this truth about knowledge is consistent with the teachings of our families.

This is the opportune moment to embark on new challenges and horizons. Let's make the most of it. Learn all you can for the sake of our nation. Be the next educated leader. For the sake of our community, be the next educated activist. Be the next educated scientist, journalist, doctor, and you can fill in the blanks.

By educated, I don't just mean degrees and titles. I mean, open a book and read it. Get on Google and search. Further your knowledge in a university if you can. Simply learn something and never stop learning.

It was the beauty of words that made authors write. It was the sound of music that made musicians create. It was the thrill of the unknown that made scientists innovate. It is still all of these things that give us opportunities to better ourselves so that we can better our world.

So, if you have the opportunity to learn, learn. There is great power in education. It's yours forever. Don't let anyone belittle it.

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.

Profesor explica el primer paso para establecer Starbase

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Elon Musk, el director ejecutivo de SpaceX, necesita el 10% de las firmas de los residentes de Boca Chica Village en una petición como el primer paso de su plan de convertir la ciudad no incorporada en Starbase, Texas, dice un profesor de UTRGV.

Se le preguntó a Clyde Barrow, un profesor de ciencias políticas de UTRGV y el jefe del departamento, cuáles son los pasos para establecer una ciudad. Él respondió que el proceso está especificado en la Constitución de Texas.

“La manera en la que se crea una nueva ciudad en Texas está especificada en la constitución estatal y en realidad Elon Musk no tiene un rol muy importante en ese proceso”, Barrow dijo.

Él dijo que hay varios tipos de ciudades diferentes en la constitución que se pueden establecer. Las dos principales son ciudades home rule (autogobierno) y ciudades de ley general.

“Para ser una ciudad home rule, la cual sería como Edinburg o McAllen, donde tienen su propia carta municipal, debe tener al menos una población de 5,000, la cual Boca Chica [Village] no tiene”, Barrow dijo. “Así que, Boca Chica vendría estando en el extremo más bajo de lo que puede ser una ciudad, a lo cual se le hace llamar ciudad de ley general Tipo C, porque su población ni siquiera es de 600”.

Para ser considerada una ciudad de Tipo B o A, la población de la región debe ser de al menos 600, y Boca Chica no la tiene.

Barrow dijo que el proceso para convertirse en una ciudad de Tipo C es relativamente sencillo.

“Alguien tiene que circular una petición entre los residentes del poblado”, él dijo.



CAPTURA DE PANTALLA TOMADA DE LA CUENTA DE TWITTER DE ELON MUSK

Elon Musk, el director ejecutivo de SpaceX, ha tuiteado acerca de su objetivo de convertir a Boca Chica Village en Starbase, Texas. También retratados están Claire Elise Boucher, la novia de Musk también conocida como Grimes, e hijo X Æ A-Xii.

“Tienen que juntar al menos el 10% de las firmas de los votantes registrados en esa zona geográfica. Llevan eso con el juez del condado, quien sería el juez del Condado de Cameron. Si él certifica esas firmas, entonces se requiere que el condado realice una elección sobre si se incorporará como una ciudad o no. Y, esencialmente, si la mayoría de los votantes votan que sí, se convierte en una ciudad de ley general Tipo C”.

Eddie Treviño Jr., el juez del Condado de Cameron, abordó el plan de Musk en su conferencia de prensa del 8 de marzo.

“Había un tuit donde él dijo que quería abrir o establecer Starbase o la Ciudad Star”, Treviño dijo. “Se me olvidó como se le llama. No uso Twitter. Pero ha comprado casi [todas las propiedades de los residentes], y sé que todavía hay unas personas que viven ahí. Él tendrá que seguir las mismas reglas y reglamentos de cualquier grupo que quiera incor-

porarse. Así que, no hay excepciones especiales para SpaceX solo porque eso es lo que a él le gustaría hacer”.

En un comunicado de prensa del 2 de marzo, la oficina de Treviño dijo que el Condado de Cameron fue oficialmente notificado por SpaceX respecto al interés de Musk en incorporar Boca Chica Village en la Ciudad de Starbase, Texas.

“El Condado de Cameron procesará cualquier petición adecuada conforme a la ley aplicable”, Treviño declaró en el comunicado de prensa.

Esencialmente, el próximo paso está en las manos de los residentes de Boca Chica Village para decidir si se convertirá en una ciudad o no y si le cambiarán el nombre.

“Teóricamente, alguien como Elon Musk podría pagarle a alguien, ya sabes, para juntar firmas y actuar como organizador, pero en realidad eso sería el único rol que él podría tomar”, Barrow dijo. “Tendría

que ser la iniciativa de los residentes de Boca Chica que deben votar para aprobarlo. En realidad no hay nada que Elon Musk pueda hacer por su cuenta para hacerlo posible”.

Él dijo que el cambio del nombre tendría que ser incluido en las boletas de votaciones.

“Podrían votar para cambiar el nombre, pero eso ya está en la iniciativa de los residentes de Boca Chica para tomar esa decisión”, Barrow dijo.

Cuando se le preguntó qué tan largo tarda el proceso por lo general, él respondió que podría hacerse relativamente de manera rápida dependiendo de la cantidad de tiempo que le tome a los residentes juntar el 10% de las firmas de los votantes en una petición y de cuando el juez del condado quiera agendar la elección.

“Yo creo que la agendarían con alguna otra elección, como las elecciones de noviembre”, Barrow dijo. “Ya sabes, es concebible que pueda pasar tan

pronto como este noviembre en un lugar tan pequeño como Boca Chica, pero todo eso asume que los residentes de Boca Chica quieran incorporarla como una ciudad y cambiar su nombre”.

Janice Llukltun, originaria de Brownsville, dijo que piensa que Musk está tratando de aburguesar a Boca Chica.

“Siento que con solo cambiar el nombre, siento que es prácticamente la definición del diccionario de lo que aburguesar significa”, Llukltun dijo. “No están realmente tomando en cuenta a las personas que viven aquí, que convirtieron a la ciudad en lo que es”.

Ella dijo que teme que Musk saque a la gente de la comunidad no incorporada, como ya lo ha empezado a hacer al comprar las propiedades de algunos residentes.

“Yo sí crecí en Brownsville toda mi vida, y me he dado cuenta de que la comunidad aquí es muy unida y que vienen de diferentes antecedentes culturales”, Llukltun dijo. “Y siento que Elon Musk al venir aquí, no está tratando de entender o tener una conexión personal con la gente que vive aquí. Realmente es solo por su beneficio personal. ... Siento que, aunque traiga consigo popularidad y turismo, siento como que solo va a sacar de aquí a la población nativa”.

Se le preguntó cómo cree que la presencia de SpaceX en el Valle del Río Grande afectará a la comunidad.

“Para unas personas, puede que sea muy emocionante o muy padre y puede que traiga prestigio al Valle, pero siento como que, a largo plazo, puede que no termine bien”, Llukltun respondió. “Aunque, realmente sea algo nuevo y emocionante, no es intrínsecamente una buena idea”.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

ON CAMPUS

Chess team trains with Kasparov

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Sol Garcia
THE RIDER

After winning an international collegiate tournament, UTRGV Chess Team A earned a virtual training session with Garry Kasparov, a Russian grandmaster and chess legend, the team's coach said.

The inaugural Kasparov Chess Foundation University Cup, held virtually Feb. 6 and 7, had over 500 students in 125 teams from 24 countries participate, with UTRGV Team A placing first.

“The first prize of the tournament was the possibility of having a training session with Garry Kasparov, which everybody dreams of,” said Bartek Maciejka, grandmaster and UTRGV chess coach. “It's like having a basketball training session with Michael Jordan.”

Right after the tournament, the excited Team A started to prepare for the training session on March 3, Maciejka said.

The four players who competed in the KCF University Cup selected plays from the competition and other tournaments and provided analyses of them to present to Kasparov. In turn, Kasparov selected two from each player, so eight games could be demonstrated in the

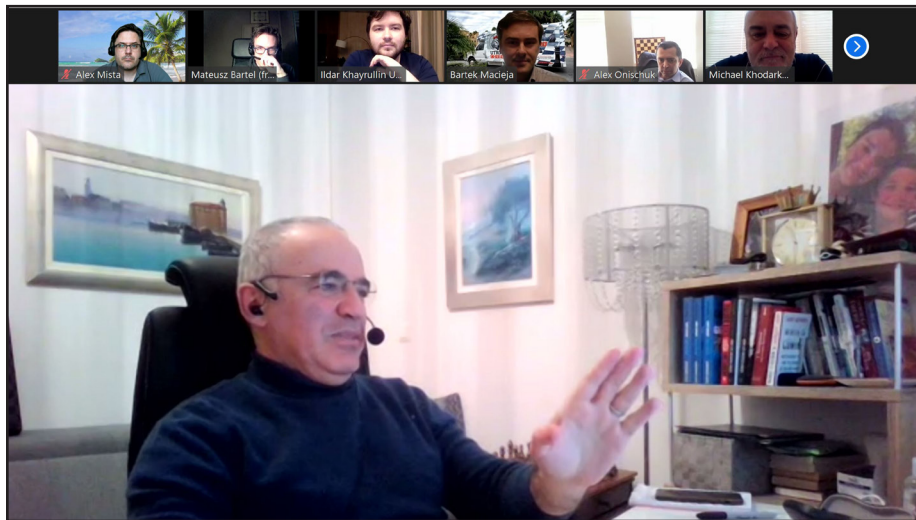


Photo Courtesy Bartek Maciejka

UTRGV Chess Team A speaks with Grandmaster Garry Kasparov March 3 after winning the Kasparov Chess Foundation University Cup competition in February. The team earned a training session with the chess legend.

training session.

“Of course, if you want to [send analyses] to the world's champion, you need to make good [analyses],” Maciejka said. “You cannot just send in anything, so that was serious work.”

The team and coach expected Kasparov would spend about half an hour or so

with them, but to their surprise, Kasparov met with the team for about four hours to share advice and experiences, Maciejka said.

“He was ready to come and give his opinion about some hints [on] what to do, what not to do, what should have been done and some practical advice,”

he said. “[As] one of our students would be demonstrating his game, Garry Kasparov was giving feedback, but [if] other students had some additional remarks, questions, comments, they were also free to ask during the session at any moment.”

The training session was an “amazing experience” for Sanan Syugirov, a grandmaster from Team A and business administration graduate student.

“[Kasparov's] one of the greatest players of history, and he's also one of my favorite players,” Syugirov said. “Many people want to talk with Garry because he has so much wisdom in chess.”

When analyzing Syugirov's games, Kasparov helped him learn from his mistakes.

“He saw my mistakes,” he said. “It was great because he ... talked to me that in some position[s], I played well, or maybe I played bad.”

Syugirov said the most exciting part of the training session was seeing “how Garry understands chess, how he sees all [of] the board and pieces.”

Team A's reserve player Irakli Beradze, who substitutes for the others when necessary, could not play a game

See **CHESS**, Page 8



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Athletics

UTRGV infielder Christian Sepulveda waits to bat during the March 7 game against the Northern Illinois University Huskies at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium in Edinburg. The Vaqueros won the non-conference game 5-4.

UTRGV baseball games underway

Karina Rodriguez

THE RIDER

Now that the UTRGV Baseball Team has already started its season, spectators can support them in person.

The team played over Spring Break against Dixie State University. Results were not available at press time.

As of March 7, the Vaqueros' record stood at 7-4. They were scheduled to start conference play against Grand Canyon University on March 12 in Phoenix.

Vice President and Director of Athletics Chasse Conque explained what spectators can expect at UTRGV baseball games.

"We're at 1,000 fans [allowed] into the stadium, but it is worth noting we have a very large, great baseball stadium," Conque said. "So, it seats 5,000, and so, it gives us [the] great opportunity, especially being outdoors, to space out [the spectators], just like we've done with basketball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. We've got seat markers that certainly respect social distancing."

Conque also said masks and touchless interactions are needed at the games.

"We've invested in additional staffing, auditors and other folks there to help manage the crowd," he said. "[We] also remind folks to mask up and social distance. We're cashless [and] touchless. So when you purchase your tickets in advance, those things are sent out automatically. We are touchless and cashless at the ticket office and the same way with our concessions."

Conque also explained how spectators can get access to tickets to the games.

"So, students are always free," he said. "So, we do have a limited number of student tickets, and by showing their ID at the gate, they can be admitted into the stadium. Fans can go online to goutrgv.com and purchase tickets on our ticket

portal. Obviously, we have season ticket holders that are part of that 1,000 [fans] and then any remaining tickets that aren't pre-sold, you can buy at the box office at the front entrance."

UTRGV infielder Christian Sepulveda said the team has been working hard each time they play.

"Just every day we go out there, and we work, and we get better all together," Sepulveda said. "We all just try to help each other and become the best athletes we can and [the] best baseball player we can. So, I feel like we all help each other and I feel like I benefit the team in the same way everyone else does."

UTRGV Head Baseball Coach Derek Matlock said he anticipates having challenging games on Thursday, Friday Saturday and Sunday against Dallas Baptist University.

"They have the most powerful arms in Texas," Matlock said. "You could almost say Texas [Austin], TCU and Texas Tech are with them. But they got big arms [and have] always had them. They're always top 30 [or] top 25 [and] I think they've been in seven [or] eight straight regionals."

"So we're going to their ballpark to play a really great game, and I'll be uneasy about it, but we have a pretty good team ourselves."

He believes as long as his players work hard, they will do well.

"If our guys, you know, play with some grit and some fight and play hard, we can overcome the difference in talent level," Matlock said. "Talent level doesn't always win. It's about guys that are brought into the process and compete and are coachable and do what they are coached to do. ... If we play good, we'll win. If we don't play good, it doesn't matter who we play, we will lose."

Rider Club Esports A gaming community at UTRGV

Ruben Mohme

THE RIDER

Esports has taken over the gaming community with new and competitive ways for players to enjoy their favorite titles, such as League of Legends, Valorant and Super Smash Bros. At UTRGV, there is a club that dedicates itself to competition.

Irving Guerrero, president of Rider Club Esports, said the organization provides options to join teams that compete against other universities.

"We like to really define that esports environment for our UTRGV students," Guerrero said.

Rider Club Esports first started out as a League of Legends club called South Texas Summoners.

"Back in 2018, we rebranded and we converted ourselves to become something that offered more than just one game," Guerrero said.

He said the club provides a community for all UTRGV students.

"We essentially incorporate everybody with what they want and what they wish to do," Guerrero said. "Currently, we have a female Hearthstone lead, and we also have a female Overwatch team captain."

Asked what the main goals are for Rider Club Esports, he replied, "We wanna give ev-



Photo Courtesy Irving Guerrero

Participants compete in a Super Smash Bros. tournament in February 2020.

everyone the opportunity to be a coach, team player or captain. Go for it. We love to give everybody the chance to do so."

The club managed to provide services for its members amid the pandemic.

"Even with COVID hitting since last year, we still had our plans ongoing," Guerrero said. "The collegiate members still have their schedule with tournaments. We usually communicate in an online format, so it

did not impact us as much."

Guerrero said Rider Club Esports conducts Super Smash Bros. tournaments monthly.

"We mainly host Super Smash Bros. tournaments once a month before the pandemic hit, but when it comes to any other game it becomes specific with the dates and times," he said.

To join Rider Club Esports, visit [V Link](#).

This Week in Athletics

Volleyball

- 6 p.m. today and 6 p.m. Tuesday vs. Tarleton State University at Stephenville

Women's Soccer

- 6 p.m. Thursday and noon Saturday vs. California Baptist University at home

Men's Soccer

- Noon Friday vs. Air Force Academy at home

Men's Tennis

- TBA Friday vs. Seattle University at Phoenix

- TBA Saturday vs. New Mexico State University in Phoenix

Baseball

- 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday vs. Dallas Baptist University in Dallas

Women's Golf

- 8 a.m. today in the UTRGV Invitational tournament at the South Texas Showdown in McAllen

Men's Track and Field

- Thursday-Saturday at the Victor Lopez Classic in Houston

Women's Track and Field

- Thursday-Saturday at the Victor Lopez Classic in Houston

--Compiled by Ruben Mohme

Student havens

Coffee shops in Edinburg and Brownsville provide friendly environment

Adalia Garza
THE RIDER

Grind Coffee Co. in Edinburg and Angelita's Casa de Café in Brownsville aim to create an effective study environment for students to feel at ease while providing a tasteful brew to enjoy.

Grind Coffee Co., at 315 W. University Dr., provides students on the Edinburg campus an accessible location to study and hang out. Owner Maryann Piñón said she intends to create a place where people feel comfortable and can build a community.

"It, kind of, sets the mood. In movies, music is like the other main character that no one sees. In our life, music, kind of, sets the scene for what you're doing, so we're very intentional about that.

"We have electrical ports at every table, things like that, that we know people are going to need. We try to make it so that it's easy to come in and have the tools that you need to sit down and study for a while."

Piñón recalled moments when students gave her coffee shop recognition for being the place they needed when they were in college.



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Grind Coffee Co. barista Michael Flores prepares coffee at the shop on March 10.

third home, you know?" he said. "Most of us have our home, where we go home, sleep, shower and, kind of, unwind. Then, we have our work home because we spend a lot of time there. ... We're, kind of, like that third place where you go in and you kick back."

Being teachers at Stell Middle School, both owners are passionate about education. Leal shared their vision for the coffeehouse.

"My wife and I decided it was going to be a place for intelligent conversation," he said. "Big changes in society came about in two places: They were either done in coffeehouses or they were done in pubs. Any place where people can get together and exchange ideas. That's what Angelita's is all about, exchanging ideas."

Their mission to provide a safe space for ideas has enabled them to foster an environment for students to study and work toward finishing their degree. Leal said that many students come to work on their assignments.

"Some of [the students] have told us that at home there is too much activity, with their little brothers and sisters having to stay home and do their online

"They have free Wi-Fi," Salazar said. "They also have a printer there, which I think is an ingenious idea to put a printer inside a coffee shop, so

"We're very much a chill place, we're kind of like your third home, you know?"
-Martin Leal
Angelita's Casa de Café owner

learning," he said. "So, they escape to our place during the day and they're able to study. The environment is there."

The coffeehouse provides technological amenities, quiet areas and even a library section where people are free to read at their own leisure.

Caleb Salazar, a management junior at UTRGV, said the coffee shop intentionally attends to the needs of students.

that students can go and print out stuff if they need to."

He said it feels like a second home to him because of how personal it is.

"It's very comfy," Salazar said. "I also like the personalness of it, 'cause I'm also close with the manager, Marty, and we get to talk a lot. So, it's very personal. It feels like a second home, very comforting. It's very chill. ... You get the quality of a high-end coffee shop but at a relaxed atmosphere."

Angelita's Casa de Café offers a venue for music students to showcase their talent, as well as a space for art students to display their work. Ultimately, there is a place for everyone, Leal said.

"Angelita's is a place that you have to experience," he said. "We create an environment where everybody is welcome. Everybody feels wanted and needed. ... It doesn't matter whether you're a teenager or 99. There is a place for you at Angelita's."



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Grind Coffee Co. is located at 315 W. University Dr. in Edinburg.

"We try to have events where they can, kind of, build a community and gain friendship through that community," Piñón said. "It's happened; it's actually really beautiful. Our regulars are very diverse. They join together to talk about coffee or just ask each other what they're doing. ... I think that's something very unique that we offer."

Piñón said the shop is intentional about how it accommodates its student demographic, from music, offering 10% discounts with a student ID, to the amenities that offer students the ability to study and work effectively.

"We're intentional with even the kind of music that we play," she said. "We put lo-fi music to help people study.

"We're here for good vibes and good coffee," she said. "We're here to create a place where ... you feel proud to be from Edinburg, or go to school here in Edinburg. We've had those people [that said], 'I wouldn't have graduated if it wasn't for Grind.'"

On a similar note, Angelita's Casa de Café, at 2200 Boca Chica Blvd., Suite 116, has been the hot spot for students on the Brownsville campus. Owners Martin Leal and his wife, Angelita, aim to provide their customers with a place to call home.

Leal said that it is a place where people come to relax as if it were their own house.

"We're very much a chill place, we're kind of like your



COURTESY PHOTOS

Angelita's Casa de Café is located at 2200 Boca Chica Blvd., Suite 116, in Brownsville.

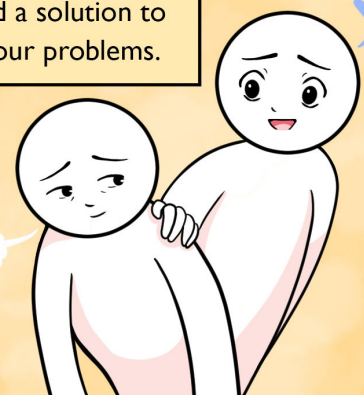
The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza

It can be overwhelming balancing your schedule. Especially, if you can't find time for yourself.

Everything feels like a responsibility rather than something you would like to do.

Talk to someone if you need to vent to find a solution to your problems.



STARBASE
Continued from Page 1

Barrow said. "It'd have to be the initiative of the residents of Boca Chica that have to vote to approve it. There's really nothing Elon Musk can do on his own to make that happen."
He said the name change would have to be included on the ballot provision.
"They could vote to change the name, but that's all in the initiative of the residents of Boca Chica to make that decision," Barrow said.
Asked how long the process typically takes, he replied it could be done fair-

ly quickly depending on the amount of time it takes for residents to gather the 10% of voter signatures on a petition and when the county judge wants to schedule the election.
"My guess is, they'd schedule it with some other election, like the November elections," Barrow said. "You know, it's conceivable in a place as small as Boca Chica that it could happen as early as this November, but that all assumes that the residents of Boca Chica want to incorporate it as a city and change their name."
Janice Llukltun, a Brownsville native, said she believes Musk is trying to

gentrify Boca Chica Village.
"I feel like changing the name itself, I feel like it's pretty much a textbook definition of what gentrification is," Llukltun said. "It's not really acknowledging the people that live here, that made the city what it was."
She said she fears Musk will drive people out of the unincorporated community, as he has already begun to do by buying out residents.
"I did grow up in Brownsville my whole life, and I've noticed that the community here is very united and all about being from different cultural backgrounds," Llukltun said. "And I

feel like when it comes to Elon Musk coming here, he's not really trying to understand or have a personal connection with the people that live here. It's really for his own personal gain. ... I feel like, even though it'll drive popularity and tourism, I feel like it's just gonna drive the native population out."
Asked how she believes SpaceX's presence in the Rio Grande Valley will affect the community, she replied, "For some people, it may be really exciting or really cool and may, like, bring a name to the Valley, but I feel like, in the long term, it may not end well. ... Although, it's really new and exciting, it's not an intrinsically good idea."

STIMULUS
Continued from Page 3

cause of Vice President Kamala Harris.
Chomsky said most Americans will still get these checks and the benefits are strongly geared to people with low and modest income. People at the bottom half of the income distribution are going to see a lot of benefit from these checks. If they're at the very top, they'll see nothing, the associate professor said.
He said the process of distributing the direct payments is going to be exactly like the first two rounds of stimulus checks.
The Senate also decreased the weekly unemployment benefits from \$400

to \$300.
Chomsky said the U.S. House of Representatives tried to increase the amount of unemployment benefits but was reduced to the standard that was set in the December 2020 round of checks, where it extended the supplemental on unemployment to \$300 through the middle of March.
"The new bill, as amended in the Senate, will just continue that on, I believe through September or into September," he said. "There was negotiations to increase the supplemental benefit up to \$400 that the conservative Democrats in the Senate rejected. There was also an effort to extend it a little beyond September, I think, for another month, and that was rejected as well. So, unem-

ployed workers will continue to receive the supplemental federal benefit up through the end of the summer and that again will have a substantial benefit to ... Americans with or [without employment]."
Chomsky said other important things about this legislation is that there is substantial relief for state and local governments that have high costs and lost revenue because of the pandemic.
"One obvious effect of that is, well, local governments have laid off large numbers of employees," he said. "Those workers, well, you know, will be able to be hired back. Also ... state and local budgets that were under threat, looking forward, will be healthier and, so, future cutbacks won't happen as a result."

Chomsky said there will also be some benefits for particular industries, including restaurants and airlines.
"There have been objections to the legislation on the grounds that it is, you know, the \$1.9 trillion figure," he said. "[It] seems enormously big, but it's not really that big. We've already gone through rounds of packages that were this big or bigger and that, you know, the cost of interest rates are low, inflation is low, unemployment is high. The need for large government spending is certainly there and the cost to [the] government of doing it [is] very low, and so it was quite worthwhile to do it and there'll be real benefits attached to it."

CHESS
Continued from Page 5

during the training session because there was no opponent for him, but he got to participate in the discussion.
"We were analyzing [games] together, and [Kasparov] was sharing his thoughts and his experience," said

Beradze, an international master and post-baccalaureate undergraduate.
"That was amazing."
When he was 12, Beradze and nine others played against Kasparov in a simultaneous exhibition, but this was a new and different encounter, he said.
"[It's] completely different when such a great player shares his experience,"

the sophomore said. "You can actually see how he thinks, and how he is really doing, and how he's really playing chess. It's [an] amazing experience."
The fact that UTRGV won the training session reflects greatly on UTRGV, Beradze said.
"Our university became more famous now," he said. "Many other universities

know our name, and they even [may be] afraid of our teams, sometimes," he said with a laugh.
Beradze said Maciejka should be credited for helping make this happen.
"We should give credit [to] our Coach Bartek for that because he's [a] great coach and great manager, too," he said.

JOHNSON
Continued from Page 3

other vaccines, he said. It may cause headaches, fatigue, muscle aches, nausea, fever, pain and redness or swelling around the area of injection.
"Interestingly, the side effects are more common in younger people than in older adults," Spear said.
Most of the side effects occur within one or two days following vaccination and are mild to moderate in severity, according to the FDA.
Spear said there are advantages with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, such as it being a single dose and how it does not have to be kept in a freezer.
"It's probably going to be a good [vaccine] to give out to places, like pharmacies, so then they don't have to then track somebody getting a second dose," he said. "They don't have to worry about, you know, how to maintain the vaccine. It's going to improve the ability to get it out to a larger number of folks than the Pfizer, which definitely is challenging, because you've got to have a super cold freezer."

Spear said it will be easier to get the vaccine to people in a lot of different settings and situations.
"We spend a lot of time with the other two vaccines, [with] setting up the second dose," he said. "You don't have to do that with the Johnson & Johnson ... and the easier handling of it is a big advantage."
Spear said he thinks the Johnson & Johnson vaccine can be in more places that are more convenient to people, like pharmacies, grocery stores and at more convenient times as well.
"It increases the chance of finding a place that fits your schedule to receive it," he said. "The more types we have, the more places that can give them, the more effective it's going to be at stopping this pandemic. So, it's another weapon we have, and it's good to have this, and it's also very safe and highly effective."
Lindanna Saldaña, a mass communication junior, told The Rider she has yet to receive any vaccine but has been wanting to for herself and her family.
Asked if she would get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, she replied "I don't

know, since it's new. I don't know how it is or how it has affected people."
Saldaña said she worries about the vaccine because it has a lower efficacy rate and it is fairly new, so she does not know the full side effects.
"I don't know if I would try it first," she said. "I would like to see the feedback on it because I know my mom, she has her illnesses, and my brother has Down syndrome. I don't want anything to happen to them."
Saldaña said if the vaccine is safe after a couple of months and is the only one available to her, she would probably get it.
Similarly, Kassandra Lin Elizondo, an exercise science senior, said she is skeptical of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
Elizondo said she is fully vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine that she received from UT Health RGV.
"It was recently just approved," she said. "So, I feel like we haven't had enough time to see if it really causes effects to the, like, general public, as opposed to, like, Pfizer and Moderna," she said. "We've had a little bit more time with those vaccines to see how people

react with them."
Spear does not recommend waiting to get the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine as the main thing for people to do is to get vaccinated as soon as possible to prevent infection of COVID-19 and preventing variants. He said variants that are more infectious are not being created by themselves in the air but when someone is infected.
"Get what you can get and the sooner the better," Spear said. "Don't wait because if you're waiting, then you're increasing the risk of getting infected and developing and getting infected with one of these variants."
He said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has many advantages to it but for people to get whichever vaccine is available to them.
"How we end the pandemic is getting more people vaccinated ... and then that will allow us to eventually go back to our more normal lives," Spear said. "We'll probably still be wearing masks for some period of time, but I think it'll allow us to do, you know, a lot of the things that we have not been able to do for the last year."

Have a story idea?
Let us know at
882-5143 or 665-5085