

TAKING A STAND

Protesters stand against new abortion law

Kaitlyn Polvado
THE RIDER

Protesters gathered outside Edinburg City Hall last Wednesday to protest against a new state law, titled "SB 8," which prohibits an abortion after six weeks of a successful pregnancy or once the fetal heartbeat is heard.

"It shouldn't be, but it's a scary time to be a woman."

--Ivania Gutiérrez
Founder of the RGV Safe Project

pregnant by six weeks, which is usually when cardiac movement begins, supporters of SB8 argue that a potential life has the right to continue on that path to a successful life postpartum. On the opposing side, protesters voiced their concerns about how they believe

As many as 50,000 women per year

experience critical, unexpected health problems due to pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Reproductive Health. With this new law, people who are pregnant face the risk of having to carry to delivery with little to no exceptions. Another

lead protester at the event, Ivania Gutiérrez spoke about the legal and financial trouble that can arise from trying to help people who are experiencing medical issues get an abortion. "It's kind of like putting a bounty on people's back because, now, if anybody needs an abortion or

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Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE Rider

A milestone in COVID-19



Roxanna Miranda/THE Rider PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which will now be known as Comirnaty, for the prevention of the COVID-19 virus in individuals 16 years and older. Dr. James Castillo, Cameron County health authority, said when a vaccine gets approved, it gets a trade name, and the new production will be under that name. The FDA approved the Comirnaty vaccine on Aug. 23. Previously, it was available under emergency use authorization. Castillo said it does not change anything about the formula of the vaccine

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UTRGV proposes football team referendum to SGA

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Daisy Araujo
THE RIDER



Daisy Araujo/THE Rider

Maggie Hinojosa, senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, answers a question about the referendum Tuesday night from Mathew Cantu, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship. At right is Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics.

UTRGV officials have asked the Student Government Association to conduct a referendum on establishing a football and women's swimming and diving programs, plus marching bands and spirit teams planned for the 2024-25 academic year. The new programs would increase the intercollegiate athletics fee by \$11.25 per semester credit hour, capped at 12 hours, Maggie Hinojosa, senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, told the SGA during its meeting Tuesday night. Only incoming and current students outside the tuition guarantee will pay the fee increase beginning Fall 2022. Hinojosa and Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics, spoke about the impact the programs will have on student life with nearly 500 student involvement opportunities. Conque said a football program would begin in Fall 2025 and compete in the Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). See SGA, Page 8

THE RIDER

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Census Day

Wednesday is the last day to drop UTRGV classes without it appearing on the transcript.

For more information, contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@utrgv.edu.

Bible Study

Christians at RGV will host a Bible study from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. today and Wednesday via Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

BESO General Meeting

The Bilingual Education Student Organization will conduct a meeting from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom to give members general information about the organization. RSVP is available on V Link.

Wednesday
Delight Ministries

Delight Ministries Brownsville, a Christ-centered community for college women, will host an event to learn more about Delight from 3 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

Virtual Involvement Fair

The Center for Student Involvement will host a virtual involvement fair for colleges, departments, organizations and honor societies from 5 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. The fair is designed to help students connect with organizations registered at UTRGV. RSVP is available on V Link.

Thursday
Virtual Involvement Fair

The Center for Student Involvement will host a virtual involvement fair from noon to 2 p.m. via Zoom. The event is designed to help students connect with recognized student organizations at UTRGV. RSVP is available on V Link.

ASL Club

The ASL Club will host an online event to learn basic American Sign Language from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Students of all majors can expand their knowledge, play some games and practice their skills at the event. RSVP is available on V Link.

Pre-PA Society

The Pre-Physician Assistant Society will conduct its first official meeting of the semester from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. The society will review plans and events it has for this semester and the opportunities associated with membership. RSVP is available on V Link.

Thriving Study Halls

The Women in STEM Programs organization will host a virtual study hall from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Assignment assistance and studying motivation may be provided. RSVP is available on V Link.

Percussion Concert

Marco Schirripa, an assistant professor in the School of Music,

will present music for solo percussion by a wide range of composers at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. The concert is part of the Patron of the Arts series.

Friday

Professional Development

Steve Chamberlain, a professor in the Human Development and School Services department, will speak about the Step Up Program and its benefits from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The event will be hosted by the Bilingual Education Student Organization open to all students. RSVP is available on V Link.

WISP General Meeting

The Women in STEM Programs organization will host an online meeting from 4 to 5 p.m. to discuss current situations and future opportunities. RSVP is available on V Link.

Saturday

9/11 Memorial Concert

The Patron of the Arts program will host a memorial concert for the 20th anniversary of the events of 9/11 at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The concert will feature a musical and poetical collection of memories, impressions and reflections.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Aug. 27 and Sept. 1.



Aug. 27

2:47 p.m.: A student fainted in Lot E-2 on Edinburg campus. The student was transported by emergency medical services to South Texas Health System Edinburg for further treatment.

Aug. 28

2:15 a.m.: An officer and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to the UT Health RGV John Austin Peña Memorial Center in reference to an active fire alarm. The fire panel indicated a tripped smoke detector in the lobby area. The fire department cleared the building and the fire panel was reset.

Aug. 29

7:49 a.m.: While conducting a building check, a UTRGV officer heard a fire alarm in the UT Health RGV John Austin Peña Memorial Center. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived at the location. The fire panel indicated a dirty smoke detector in the lobby area. The fire department cleared the building and the

fire panel was reset.

4 p.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed, via cameras, three individuals running north from the levee toward the U.S. border fence. Officers, along with Border Patrol agents, responded to Lot B-1. Border Patrol detained and took custody of the three individuals without incident.

Aug. 30

7:14 a.m.: An officer responded to Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus regarding a two-vehicle accident. No injuries were reported, only damage to both vehicles.

2:04 p.m.: An officer responded to Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus regarding a two-vehicle accident. No injuries were reported, only damage to both vehicles.

Aug. 31

12:12 a.m.: A student residing in the Casa Bella Apartments in Brownsville was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia. The case is under investigation.

1:32 a.m.: An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation at Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus. The

investigation revealed a non-affiliated passenger was in possession of drug paraphernalia. The non-affiliated operator was issued a warning for the traffic violation and the passenger a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.

8:23 a.m.: A student reported \$250 and her U.S. passport were stolen from inside her backpack while at the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

4:31 p.m.: A staff member reported losing a university-issued key at a car dealership Aug. 8 in Harlingen. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

Sept. 1

3:23 p.m.: A student complained of chest pains and trouble breathing in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services responded to the location, but the student declined to be transported.

--Compiled by Valeria Henderson

PROTEST

Continued from Page 1

someone just wants to help someone have an abortion," Gutiérrez said. "They're going to be sued for tens of thousands of dollars just for helping somebody get help."

Many states that also want similar abortion laws to Texas are now turning to their lawmakers to push for stricter laws, creating uncertainty among those who can get pregnant across the nation, especially in more conservative states.

Gutiérrez said her fear is similar to those across the country who are now facing the reality of these kinds of laws being enacted in their own states.

"It's very scary," she said. "It shouldn't be, but it's a scary time to be a woman. I'm scared for everybody who needs an abortion. I'm scared for people who are raped. I know that because of this, there's going to be states that

are going to want to adopt laws like this."

With the new law, some may not know where to turn for help.

Gutiérrez said those who want to

help abortion providers or are seeking an abortion should reach out "to organizations, abortion funds, because they can still help you, even, like, with compliance to SB8."



Kaitlyn Polvado/THE Rider

Protesters outside Edinburg City Hall take a stand last Wednesday against SB8, a new Texas law that prohibits abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy. The law, also known as the "heartbeat bill," went into effect the same day.

Late Nite fun and games

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

The University Recreation Center hosted Late Nite at the UREC last Thursday. Students got to enjoy an evening full of activities, food and music on both campuses.

"We actually started these conversations back in May, and we gave ourselves an internal deadline," UREC Associate Director Annette Livas said about the planning process for the event. "We needed to plan three different, I guess, outlines, so to speak, for the event, because of the unknown."

Planning for the Late Nite event began earlier in the year, Livas said, and many adjustments were made along the way.

"We've just been very flexible with the structure of what Late Nite is going to look like," she said. "Thankfully, we have a small group of about four individuals that have been leading conversations internally with

our department."

In-person activities were made available on both campuses. In Brownsville, three locations at the Student Union hosted a variety of activities such as yoga in El Gran Salón, events on the lawn and new computers in the Game Room.

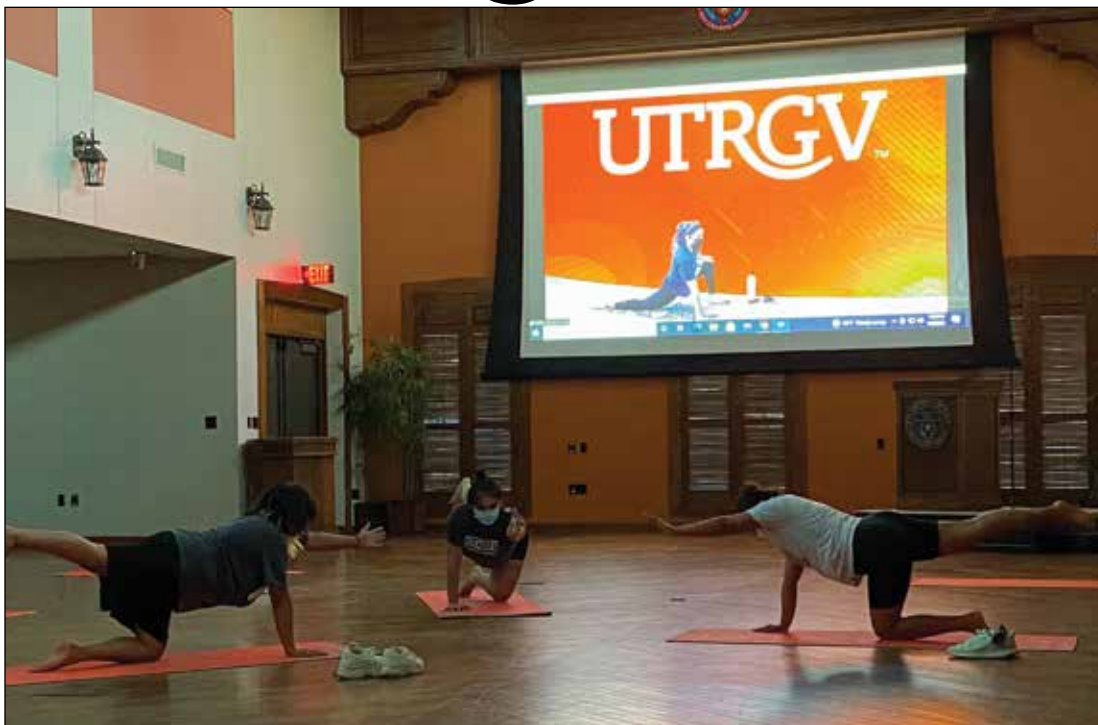
"We're going to have volleyball; we're going to have cornhole [and] a battle rope challenge," Livas said before the event.

There was also an agility drill, and to advertise the need for lifeguards, a lifeguard relay activity on the lawn.

"I think it's pretty cool," interdisciplinary studies junior Briseyda Benavides said after partaking in the lifeguard relay in Brownsville. "It's pretty engaging for the students and everything. It's just a way to meet new people, have fun, and explore college."

Benavides is looking forward to this semester, as it is her first year at UTRGV.

"The past two years, I was at [Texas Southmost College], which was a pretty good



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE Rider

Students pose during a yoga session at the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The session was streamed from the Edinburg campus so students could join from home.

experience, too," she said. "But I'm having a really good time at UTRGV, too."

Having events such as Late Nite improves the campus experience, said political science sophomore Martin Resendiz.

"It really promotes coming back to campus in-person and makes a better experience than being online," Resendiz said about the event. "So, I just hope it goes back to how it was before COVID."

Kinesiology senior Eduardo Garcia believes Late Nite was a great way to boost morale on campus.

"I think it's great," Garcia said. "You know, it's been hard with COVID and everything. I've been to these in-person events before COVID, and it's kind of awesome that

we're bringing them back in a safe manner."

He hopes to see things get slowly back to normal on campus.

"Seeing people gather up here--it's really amazing," Garcia said. "I do miss seeing all these people here on campus."

The Edinburg campus event was the same concept with the addition of some unique activities both inside and outside the facility, UREC Marketing and Student Development Coordinator Cristina Rodriguez said last Tuesday.

In Edinburg, there were activities such as table tennis, basketball, Aqua Zumba, POUND, yoga, volleyball and a battle rope challenge.

Both campuses had food, drinks and music. Vaquero Radio provided DJ services to both campuses and

a photo booth to the Edinburg campus.

There were also adjustments made to ensure a safe environment.

"We've already transitioned our building in Edinburg," Livas said. "Our risk mitigation plan is really just to have hand sanitizers and cleaning supplies readily accessible while the students are participating in these activities."

The staff members at University Recreation want to continue to be flexible and hope to continue to provide safe events for students on campus.

"Honestly, we're just happy that we can provide it," Livas replied when asked for her thoughts before the event. "We can provide it safely and see if the campus community comes out to hang out with us."



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE Rider

Briseyda Benavides, an interdisciplinary studies junior, plays in the lifeguard relay at the Late Nite at the UREC event last Thursday on the Brownsville campus. The game was incorporated in the event to stress the need for lifeguards.

"Project Capital" company may come to Brownsville

Valeria Henderson
THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission and the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp. met last Thursday to discuss incentives for a potential company in the city, said Nurith Galonsky, GBIC vice chair and district one city commissioner.

Project Capital was discussed in a previous city commission meeting on Aug. 26 in executive session.

More information about Project Capital is confidential until it is publicly announced, Galonsky said.

"I think both UTRGV and the City of Brownsville are doing everything possible to create an environment that is conducive for the students to want to stay here and pursue opportunities here," Galonsky said. "We want to make it so that people don't have to leave Brownsville for them to get a good job, to get educational opportunities and to be able to thrive."

An executive session was held last Thursday to go over Project Capital. The motion passed after executive session to enter into an agreement on Project Capital with the changes and terms specified by the board in executive session, according to John Cowen Jr., GBIC chairman and Brownsville city commissioner at-large "A."

"We discussed Project Capital previously in a recruitment package and, as a board, we asked for additional clarity and we had some questions about several items on the recruitment package," said Dr. Rose Gowen, GBIC treasurer and Brownsville city commissioner at-large "B." "And that's why we came back yesterday, to discuss those questions and answers."

The decisions made during Brownsville City Commission meetings affect UTRGV students and the future, according to Gowen.

"I think everything we negotiate affects UTRGV students," she said. "Because



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE Rider

Brownsville City Commission members meet Thursday night as the board of directors of the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp. to discuss Project Capital. Shown from left are GBIC Chairman John Cowen Jr., board member Pedro Cardenas, secretary Roy De Los Santos, and board member Trey Mendez III.

everything we negotiate, regardless of whether it's a manufacturing company or a space-related company or whatever, influences the economy of Brownsville. And the economy of Brownsville, of course, influences the students, their future lives, their families and the university itself."

The next Brownsville City

Commission meeting will take place at 5 p.m. today at Brownsville City Hall and virtually via WebEx Teleconference meeting.

"I think the students should have confidence and look forward to the work that we are doing at GBIC and the restructuring that we recently underwent and still are in

the process of," Gowen said. "Because we are successfully recruiting new industries and we now have the space channel and space ventures and Paragon, the drone company that is going to be developing drone technology, we would never have seen years ago in Brownsville."



WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

On Aug. 31, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What are your thoughts on President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan?" The results are shown below.

facebook

IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION 9

I HAVE NO OPINION ON THIS 8

IT WAS THE WRONG DECISION 1

twitter

8 IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION

1 IT WAS THE WRONG DECISION

Instagram

IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION 21

I HAVE NO OPINION ON THIS 16

IT WAS THE WRONG DECISION 9

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE



@UTRGVRIDER

Never forget 9/11/01



ADKZ 9/11/21

20th anniversary

Generational burdens of war



Omar E. Zapata
SPORTS REPORTER

The longest war in U.S. history came to an end last week, a war that started when I was 3 years old, and I think it is mind-boggling that the last casualties were people my age or younger.

A whole generation after 9/11 and the war on terror in Afghanistan, U.S. Marines David L. Espinoza, a 20-year-old Laredo native, and Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California, were among the 13 members of the U.S. military who were killed in an attack on the airport on Aug. 26 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Espinoza and Merola were probably no older than 1 or 2 when important historical events happened and eventually set in motion for them to be in Kabul and ultimately led to their deaths.

On Aug. 30, a few days after the airport bombing, 10 family members died in a U.S. drone strike. Eight of the 10 were children under the age of 18, with one of those eight being

a 2-year-old. They added to the 48,000 civilian casualties caused by 20 years of war, according to an article by The Washington Post.

I am not a religious person but, growing up going to church on Sundays, I remember a few scriptures from the Bible, and one that comes to mind watching all the news about Afghanistan is, "The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children"(Ezekiel 18:1-3).

The sin is war, the father is

topics regarding Afghanistan. Something that cannot be up for debate is the cost of the war on terror. The estimated amount of war costs that the United States has debt-financed as of 2020 is a staggering \$2 trillion, according to an article by the Associated Press News. The estimated cost, with interest, could reach \$6.5 trillion by 2050.

With so much money being spent on a war over the last 20 years, you start to think about alternative ways the government could have used that money.

It could have been used for the education of this generation, such as giving young students free meals, the latest books and materials needed. All that money could have been put toward free and adequate health care for the people of this country.

There are plenty of ways the \$2 trillion could have been used but, now, in the aftermath of the longest war in U.S. history, we must learn from those mistakes.

I hope this country will never have to fight another war, and especially not one that burdens a whole future generation of people with debt and deaths.

"I hope this country will never have to fight another war, and especially not one that burdens a whole future generation of people with debt and deaths."

past events, politicians and ideas, and the children are the people of Generation Z.

We did not start the war, nor were we even at an age to truly understand the events when they were happening, but they all died because of it. I find it shocking that 20 years after everything started, our generation is now carrying the burdens of it.

Normal, everyday people, political pundits and elected officials over the last several weeks have all made their opinions heard on various

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.

Levantaron sus voces para ser escuchadas

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Docenas de personas protestaron en Edinburg el miércoles pasado en contra de la nueva ley conocida como el Proyecto de Ley 8 del Senado, o SB8, en Texas.

La ley, que comenzó en efecto el primero de septiembre, prohibirá los abortos a las seis semanas de embarazo, antes de que la mayoría de las mujeres sepan que están embarazadas.

La ley SB8 es "Un acto relacionado con el aborto, incluidos los abortos después de la detección de un latido del corazón del niño por nacer; autorizando un derecho civil privado de acción", de acuerdo con el sitio web del Capitolio de Texas.

El miércoles pasado Ivania Gutiérrez, estudiante de segundo año de comunicación masiva y fundadora de RGV Safe Project, lideró una protesta contra SB8 enfrente del Edinburg City Hall, en donde Frontera Fund, South Texans for RJ, Texas Rising at UTRGV y Planned Parenthood Texas Votes se unieron junto con Gutiérrez para alzar sus voces y exigir que la ley SB8 sea bloqueada. "Lo que queremos hacer es pelear porque está ley es súper inhumana e injusta",



Fatima Gamez Lopez/FOTO Rider

"Aborto si, aborto no, eso lo decido yo" fue una de las frases que las activistas gritaron durante la protesta el pasado miércoles enfrente del Edinburg City Hall.

respondió cuando se le preguntó sobre el propósito de la protesta. "Va a poner la vida de muchas mujeres en peligro y también las hará cometer abortos que son peligrosos".

Raquel Espinoza, activista, dijo que una persona debe elegir lo que es mejor para su propio cuerpo y no se deberá de intentar poner leyes en los cuerpos de otros. Al final del día, la única persona que

le va a afectar es a ti, no a los demás.

"Es muy triste que el estado de Texas esté usando el tiempo que tienen para mejorar el estado en pasar leyes que sólo restringen y terminan afectando la vida de la gente en una forma negativa", dijo Ofelia Alonso, activista durante la protesta en contra de la ley SB8. "En vez de estar usando el tiempo que tienen para hacer leyes

que ayuden a las personas, están quitándoles el derecho a las mujeres que necesitan el aborto".

Gutiérrez dijo cómo todo lo que estaba sucediendo le rompía el corazón, ya que lo que una persona quiera hacer con su cuerpo es su decisión, si alguien quiere hacer algo con su cuerpo no es problema de otras personas.

"Las mujeres deberían de tener el derecho a abortar,

porque nosotras somos las que cargamos al bebé", dijo Espinoza. "Nosotras somos las que pasamos por todos los cambios emocionales. Nadie debería de decirte si debes tener o no el bebé".

Cuando se le preguntó a Alonso sobre cómo un embarazo no deseado podría afectar a la persona, ella contestó que les afecta de diferentes maneras, ya que muchas mujeres son obligadas a dar un paso muy grande en su vida.

Muchas mujeres no tienen el dinero suficiente para mantener al bebé o no se sienten preparadas para ser mamás, dijo.

"Es su cuerpo y si una mujer si por cualquier razón quiere tener un aborto es su decisión", dijo Gutiérrez. "Mi opinión más que nada es que si una persona es violada o abusada y necesita un aborto por esa razón pues es su derecho y es inaceptable que esa persona tenga que pasar por un embarazo que no quiere".

Espinoza comprendió lo difícil que es estar embarazada, porque es un viaje de nueve meses. Dijo que es algo que cambia completamente la vida de una persona y por eso las mujeres deben de tener el derecho si

Vea VOCES, Página 8

UTRGV propone referéndum del equipo de fútbol a SGA

Daisy Araujo
THE RIDER

Los funcionarios de UTRGV han pedido a la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil que lleve a cabo un referéndum sobre el establecimiento de programas de fútbol y de natación y buceo para mujeres, además de bandas de música y equipos de espíritu planeados para el año académico 2024-25.

Los nuevos programas aumentarán la tarifa de atletismo interuniversitario a \$11.25 por hora crédito semestral, con un límite de 12 horas, dijo Maggie Hinojosa, senior vicepresidenta de Inscripción Estratégica y Asuntos Estudiantiles, a SGA durante su reunión del martes por la noche.

Solo los estudiantes entrantes y actuales fuera de la garantía de matrícula pagarán el aumento de la tarifa a partir del otoño del 2022.

Hinojosa y Chasse Conque, vicepresidente y director de Atletismo, hablaron sobre el impacto que tendrán los programas en la vida estudiantil con casi 500 oportunidades de participación estudiantil.

Conque dijo que un programa de fútbol comenzaría en el otoño de 2025 y competiría en la Subdivisión del Campeonato de Fútbol de la División I (FCS).

Además, el grupo de trabajo de género y equidad de UTRGV y el Consejo de Atletismo de UTRGV recomendaron un equipo de

natación y buceo para mujeres en la primavera de 2021.

"Ya tenemos una asociación con el nuevo natatorio en la ciudad de Pharr, así que aquí será donde nuestro equipo entrenará y competirá", dijo Conque.

Otro programa que presentó fue una banda de música, que participará en desfiles locales y eventos comunitarios en ambos campus.

"Sentimos que una banda de música va a agregar una gran tradición y espíritu a nuestro campus", dijo Conque.

Los programas de espíritu ayudarían a expandir los programas de baile y alegría y participarán en eventos del campus y de la comunidad, dijo.

Hinojosa dijo que se crearían dos bandas de música y dos programas espirituales para acomodar a ambos campus.

El equipo de natación y buceo y la banda de música debutarán durante el año académico 2024-25, según documentos proporcionados a The Rider por SGA. La primera temporada de fútbol sería en 2025.

Según Hinojosa, las oportunidades que se ofrecen beneficiarán a la universidad y a los estudiantes al aumentar la matrícula en la UTRGV.

La ventaja de matrícula de UTRGV para el otoño de 2022 se incrementará a \$100,000 para todos los que califiquen, dijo.

Tuition Advantage permite que la matrícula y las tarifas obligatorias para los estudiantes con un ingreso familiar



Daisy Araujo/FOTO Rider

Maggie Hinojosa, senior vicepresidenta de Inscripción Estratégica y Asuntos Estudiantiles, explica a la Asociación de Gobierno Estudiantil el martes por la noche cómo el establecimiento de equipos de fútbol, natación y buceo para mujeres afectaría a la universidad. También se muestra a Chasse Conque, vicepresidente y director de Atletismo, quien solicitó un referéndum sobre la propuesta.

ajustado de \$100,000 o menos estén cubiertos por la subvención, según el sitio web de UTRGV.

Conque pidió a SGA que llevará la propuesta al siguiente paso, que es un referéndum estudiantil que se votará entre el 8 y el 10 de noviembre, según la Solicitud del Referéndum. Esto permitiría que la propuesta llegue a la Junta de

Regentes del Sistema de la Universidad de Texas en febrero de 2022 para el cronograma propuesto.

SGA votó para posponer la acción sobre la solicitud hasta su próxima reunión, que tendrá lugar a las 6 p.m. el próximo martes en el campus de Edinburg y vía Zoom.

--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

Patron of the Arts Season Begins

Kaitlyn Polvado
A&E REPORTER

UTRGV School of Music's Patron of the Arts season kicked off Friday night with a virtual all-Chopin recital by pianist Eliza Folkert on the program's website.

Folkert, of Alpharetta, Georgia, attends St. John Bosco Academy. She learned to play the piano from her father, Piotr Folkert, a winner of the Young Artists International Piano Award.

The season's other performances, announced recently, will feature students, faculty and special guests and will take place on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, as well as virtually on the UTRGV Patron of the Arts YouTube channel.

"We want to continue reaching out to those who are unable to come to our campuses," said Hiram Joseph Diaz, production and art facilities manager for the College of Fine Arts. "We want to inspire others

to create and produce online content that will allow them to share their talents."

Due to Gov. Greg Abbott's repeal of masks being mandated in Texas, UTRGV cannot require that facial coverings be worn at events held on campus, but the School of Music strongly encourages people to wear masks in order to provide safety from the coronavirus, according to its website.

Each performance will provide seating arrangements that adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines in order to ensure the safety of the audience viewing every performance.

"We have sectioned off every other row and are asking our guests to allot distancing between themselves and nearby parties," Diaz said. "We are playing pre-recorded announcements to remind and encourage our guests to practice social distancing while attending events in person."

PATRON OF THE ARTS SCHEDULE:
SEPTEMBER

Chopin Piano Recital Eliza Folkert @ 7 p.m. →	Sept. 3	Solo Percussion Marco Schirripa @ 7 p.m. →	Sept. 9
Music Faculty Chamber Ensembles 9/11 20th Year Memorial Concert @ 7 p.m. →	Sept. 11	Solo Percussion Marco Schirripa @ 7 p.m. →	Sept. 16
Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan @ 2 p.m. →	Sept. 17 & 18	Alium Spiritum / UTRGV Chamber Singers Mini-Concert @ 4:30 p.m. →	Sept. 18
Faculty Recital Rebecca Coberly, soprano Stacy Kwak, piano @ 3 p.m. →	Sept. 26	UTRGV Wind Orchestra and Symphonic Winds @ 7 p.m. →	Sept. 30

Programs for the concerts will be available by scanning a QR code during the event or going to the Patron of the Arts website.

In addition to virtual access to each performance and programs, every performance shown during Fall 2021 will be free of charge in order to

provide access to everyone who cannot enjoy these performances the way they would like to.

"We want our guests to be able to do this and to give them the opportunity to distance themselves from strangers and other guests," Diaz said. "This means seating

may be limited based on the event itself and expected attendance."

For more information on the Patron of the Arts performances, visit www.utrgv.edu/patron or visit their social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

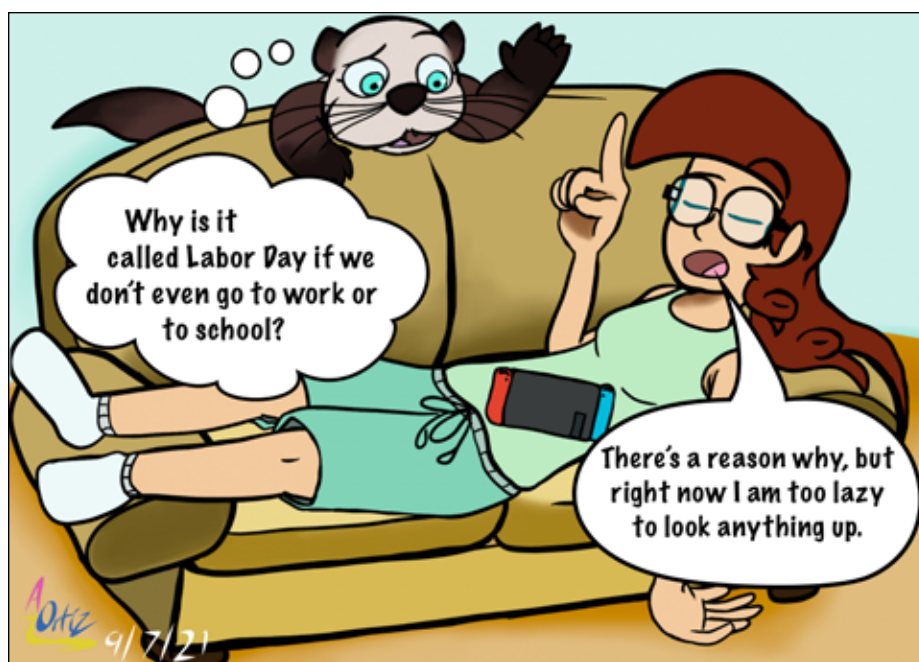
Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

- Aries**-Let this be your reminder that you do not have to be strong for the sake of others. Learn to be vulnerable and show those you love your softer side. If you never tell them how you feel, they'll never know.
- Taurus**-Every once in a while, you need to be reminded to let your guard down. People will get tired of trying to break down your walls. Opening up doesn't have to mean releasing the floodgates. Pace yourself.
- Gemini**-It is no secret that you like your freedom. Keep your wild side active even when others try to calm you down. It might just steer you to your next adventure.
- Cancer**-Despite what you might hear, never believe you are showing weakness by caring about others. This world needs more empathy.
- Leo**-Although this week may challenge you to conform, continue to find the courage to be unapologetically yourself.
- Virgo**-Be firm in your beliefs and never lose sight of who you have worked so hard to become. You may be tempted to fall into the stereotypes society has placed for you this week, but stay true to yourself.
- Libra**-You may feel as though you can't catch a break this week. Find time to immerse yourself in the activities you enjoy.
- Scorpio**-This week will be filled with many interactions for you. Use your talent of reading people to help read between the lines of what you are being told.
- Sagittarius**-A situation this week may make you feel as though you are stuck. Remember, you always have the power to change your situation. Old keys don't unlock new doors.
- Capricorn**-It may feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders, but remember to take time for yourself.
- Aquarius**-It is time to grow out of your deeply rooted trust issues. Trusting is hard, but it is the only way to let people in.
- Pisces**-Depending on people is not a weakness of yours, but rather a superpower. You believe in teamwork and appreciate a helping hand because you are always there to return the favor.

SUDOKU

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Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz



THIS WEEK IN SPORTS:

WOMEN'S SOCCER



11 A.M. WEDNESDAY VS. CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS (HOME)

7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD (HOME)

3 P.M. SUNDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN (AWAY)

MEN'S SOCCER



6 P.M. THURSDAY VS. FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY (AWAY)

6 P.M. SUNDAY VS. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AWAY)

VOLLEYBALL



UTRGV TOURNAMENT

7 P.M. THURSDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE (HOME)

7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD (HOME)

5 P.M. SATURDAY VS. TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (HOME)

1 P.M. SUNDAY VS. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI (HOME)

Media deal hopes to bring exposure to Athletics



Omar Zapata/THE Rider

Sophomore defender and midfielder Isaac Ochoa practices passing drills last Wednesday at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex. Junior forward Dion Johnston (left) runs to receive a pass as graduate midfielder Bryce Box (right) waits for a ball.

Omar Zapata SPORTS REPORTER

On Aug. 24, the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) and ESPN announced a new multi-year and multi-platform media rights agreement that will see over 500 annual events on ESPN, ESPN+ and ESPN's Linear networks.

The new agreement is a five-year deal, from now until the end of Spring 2026, according to Jonah Goldberg, senior associate director for communications for the UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Goldberg told The Rider that approximately 80 UTRGV home and WAC games will be televised or live streamed on ESPN and its linear channels. The sports that will be shown are baseball, volleyball, and men's and women's basketball and soccer.

Chassee Conque, vice president and director of Athletics, told The Rider this new deal is exciting for the department and the institution.

"To be able to engage in a new deal, a multi-year deal, and one that's going to give expanded coverage to all of our membership, all of our institutions, it's a great thing for our conference," he said. "But also, at the end of the day, UTRGV wins as well."

Conque said a benefit to this new media rights agreement is the ease of access to watch games for the campus community and the parents and families of student athletes.

ESPN+ is \$6.99 a month or \$69.99 per year.

UTRGV Baseball Head Coach Derek Matlock told The Rider he is excited for

their baseball games to be on such a big platform like ESPN.

"We know ESPN+ is a big brand," he said. "We know it's going to give us a lot more people watching and tuning in, so, it's exciting for more people to see our brand of baseball. And it's really fun when you start talking about ESPN because everybody's got the app and everybody can watch it."

He said with many of the team's baseball players from all over the country, this gives a lot of their families an opportunity to see them play.

"It's exciting for [the] families and [the players],"

looking forward to it."

He said another benefit that he sees from the new deal with ESPN, is being able to get their 'brand' out there.

"I think with the new additions with the [name, image and likeness] with the student athletes, I think it's important that we get our brand out there and what we do out there," Nelson said. "And I think that this is a great opportunity to promote that, you know, as a whole."

Asked if this will promote endorsement deals for him and the team, he replied, "I think it definitely has that opportunity."

Conque said he also thinks the new deal will bring more awareness and attention to UTRGV student athletes and help their opportunities with their NIL's.

Asked if having more access to games throughout the season will affect in-person attendance, Conque replied, "I don't think it will."

"I think it heightens awareness for us," he said. "It helps engage new fans and there's nothing like being in our venue. There's nothing like coming to a game at the Fieldhouse or the baseball stadium or soccer games."

Conque understands people cannot make every game so this new media deal allows fans to be able to keep up with all sports programs that will be on the platforms.

"We know, we've got 30 something home basketball games every year between men's and women's basketball [and] 30 plus in baseball," he said. "If you can't make it out to the park, you know that you can tune in and use your iPhone to keep up with the Vaqueros."

"If [players'] parents could see them play, then that excites us and it brings us a great comfort in knowing that we got a lot of support behind us."

**--Derek Matlock
Baseball Head Coach**

Matlock said. "If [players'] parents could see them play, then that excites us and it brings us a great comfort in knowing that we got a lot of support behind us."

Marek Nelson, graduate basketball forward, told The Rider one of the benefits of this media deal is having more opportunities for family and friends to watch their games.

"Our basketball team, as well, has a lot of foreign guys and guys from all over the country," Nelson said. "So, I think the ability for their families and all those people to be able to tune into our games and support, even if they're not able to attend in person, is really important, so, it's an exciting time, and I'm

SGA
Continued from Page 1

Additionally, a women's swimming and diving team was recommended by the UTRGV Gender and Equity Working group and the UTRGV Athletics Council in Spring 2021.

"We already have a partnership with the new natatorium in the city of Pharr, so this will be where our team will train and compete," Conque said.

Another program he presented was a marching band, which will participate in local parades and community events on both campuses.

"We feel like a marching band is going to add a great tradition and spirit to our campus," Conque said.

Spirit programs would help expand cheer and dance programs and would participate in campus and community events, he said.

Hinojosa said two marching bands and two spirit programs would be created to accommodate both campuses.

The swimming and diving team and the marching band would debut during the 2024-25 academic year, according to documents provided

to The Rider by the SGA. The first football season would be in 2025.

According to Hinojosa, the opportunities offered will benefit the university and students by increasing enrollment at UTRGV.

The UTRGV Tuition Advantage for Fall 2022 will be increased to \$100,000 for everyone who qualifies, she said.

Tuition Advantage allows for tuition and mandatory fees for students with an adjusted family income of \$100,000 or less to be covered by the grant, according to the UTRGV website.

Conque asked the SGA to take the proposal to the next step, which is a student referendum to be voted on between November 8 and 10, according to the Referenda Request Application. This would allow for the proposal to reach the University of Texas System Board of Regents by February 2022 for the proposed timeline.

The SGA voted to table action on the request until its next meeting, which will take place at 6 p.m. next Tuesday on the Brownsville campus and via Zoom.



Daisy Araujo/The Rider

Senate Chair Jose Raul Ruiz adjourns the senate meeting Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

COVID-19
Continued from Page 1

or its availability, it just confirms that the Comirnaty vaccine that is already being used has met all of the requirements to receive the FDA approval.

"A lot of that new stock that's under the brand name is already making its way into the market, and it's still free," he said. "The government is the one who

is purchasing it."

Asked what the difference is between the vaccine among the age groups, Castillo replied that for those 12 and older, it is the same vaccine that is used for adults.

"The issue is for those people under 12," he said. "A different dose is being studied for the Moderna and the Pfizer vaccine."

Castillo said Pfizer was able to get it approved sooner than Moderna because

the company got a head start in terms of timing based on its experience.

"It's a partnership between Pfizer and BioNTech, and Pfizer has a tremendous history and experience in bringing these types of products to markets and doing their clinical studies," he said. "And Moderna is a newer company."

He said the FDA is going through the process of approving other COVID-19 vaccines, but the agency has not released any sort of expectation on when it is going to finish that review.

Castillo said the mixing of vaccines has not been studied, so the person may not know if they are getting fully vaccinated or not. People should not mix any COVID-19 vaccines unless there is no choice.

"Right now, people have lots of options and lots of places they can go to get these vaccines," he said.

Esmeralda Guajardo, Cameron County health administrator, said she hopes that this approval will increase vaccination rates.

"I'm hoping that everyone [who] isn't vaccinated is because of the fear and their confusion in terms of the emergency agreement and the safety of [the vaccine]," Guajardo said.

She said it is almost like giving a stamp of approval and some reassurance to those people.

"That's what it means, but it translates to saving lives," Guajardo said, regarding the FDA's action. "The

vaccine is showing to be very effective in keeping people from getting sick and being in the hospital. And, so, I hope people see that for its value."

She said people should be able to make the decision to get the vaccine to protect themselves.

"So, right now, I think we're plateauing on the vaccination rate," Guajardo said. "And it's heartbreaking because, at the same time, yesterday we reported 13 deaths, and 11 of the 13 were not vaccinated. I really don't know what else we can do for people to get vaccinated. But, at the same time, there's a seatbelt law. It's meant to save lives, you know. We have to follow it. It's the same thing with vaccines. It's meant to save lives. There's nothing to tell them to follow it, either. It's a tough one."

Destiny Hernandez, an integrated health science sophomore, is fully vaccinated and believes the approval of the Comirnaty vaccine is good.

"I think more people are going to get the vaccine now that it's fully approved," Hernandez said.

Asked if the county should mandate the COVID-19 vaccines, the sophomore replied that it is everyone's right to choose if they want to get it.

"I got it because I wanted to," Hernandez said. "Everyone has a choice. They can make their own choice."



Roxanna Miranda/THE Rider PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech, on Aug. 2. The vaccine will now be known as Comirnaty, according to an FDA news release.

VOCES
Continuación de Página 5

quieren o no tener al bebé.

A veces los embarazos no son a propósito, pueden ser por una violación, dijo.

"Es algo que no esperábamos y es algo que no deberíamos cargar con nosotras si no es nuestra decisión", dijo Espinoza. "Yo fui mamá joven y yo tuve esa opción, yo tuve la decisión de decidir qué hacer con mi propio cuerpo. Yo quiero que mis amigas, mis compañeras, mis hermanas, mis maestras y que toda la comunidad tenga esa misma opción que yo tuve".

Cuando se le preguntó a Alonso su

opinión acerca de lo que pensaba de las personas que estaba en contra del aborto, ella contestó que tenemos que considerar las vidas involucradas, no solamente la vida del bebé.

La vida de los papás que están obligados a tener estos hijos es muy importante ya que a lo mejor ellos no tienen la capacidad monetariamente para mantener a un bebé, dijo.

En los Estados Unidos no debemos de hacer todas las leyes basadas en una sola creencia religiosa, dijo Alonso.

"Yo me considero una persona muy religiosa y yo estoy aquí más que nada por las personas que son violadas y necesitan un aborto", dijo Gutiérrez. "Eh escuchado bastantes historias de

niñas de 11 o 12 años que son abusadas por sus propios padres y necesitan un aborto".

Esa fue la razón principal por la cual Gutiérrez estaba a favor del aborto, porque era algo que le desgarraba el corazón.

"Si el gobierno no puede ni siquiera arreglar las calles, por qué vamos a dejar que arreglen nuestros cuerpos", dijo Espinoza.

Gutiérrez explicó su frustración al saber que personas aún están en contra del aborto.

"No están matando ninguna vida, cómo van a impedir que una persona que está afuera, que ya tiene su vida hecha, que tiene todo, como vas a decir

que su vida y su decisión no valen" dijo. "Eso es lo que me molesta mucho, porque no es una vida. Si no te gusta la idea del aborto, pues no abortes".

Ella dijo que las personas no abortan sin razón alguna, hay personas que son violadas y abusadas que no tienen otra opción más que abortar.

"Niñas de 11 años que les robamos su juventud a causa de una ley", dijo Gutiérrez.

Alonso dijo, "Estudiantes pueden hacer donativos a Frontera Fund y apoyar a la gente que todavía está trabajando para que tengamos una realidad en donde todos podamos tomar decisiones libremente sobre si queremos abortar o no."



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