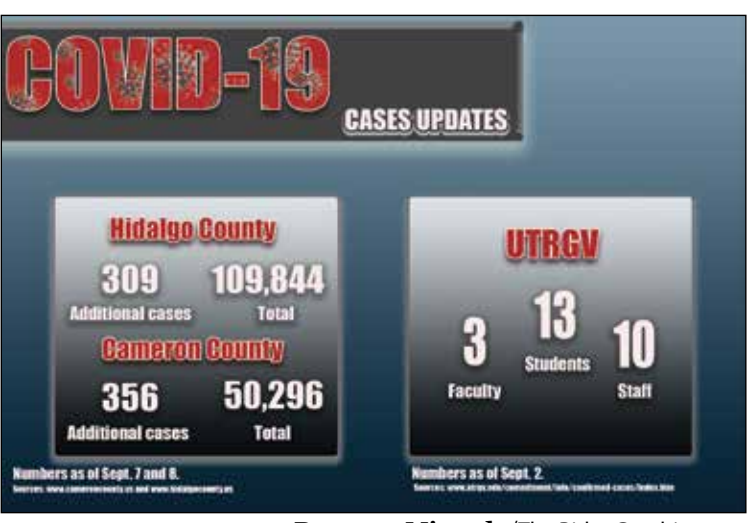


At UTRGV

## 26 COVID cases in 6 days



Roxanna Miranda/The Rider Graphic

### Alejandra Yañez

**The rider**  
Twenty-six UTRGV individuals tested positive for COVID-19 between Aug. 27 and Sept. 2, university officials reported. Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said among the 26 were 13 students, three faculty and 10 staff members. The UTRGV Confirmed Cases Dashboard has not reported COVID numbers above 20 since December of

last year. Arney attributes the increase in cases to the return to campus, which began Aug. 23. As of last Wednesday, 43,983 tests had been conducted by UT Health RGV testing sites, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website. With Texas Southmost College's recent switch to online learning during the surge, The Rider asked Arney if UTRGV plans to follow. "Some campuses are doing that," See COVID, Page 2

## Anderson moving on



Photo Courtesy Rick Anderson  
**Brigitte Ortiz**  
the rider

Rick Anderson, executive vice president for Finance and Administration, will resign from his position Oct. 15 and join the Medical University of South Carolina as executive vice president of Finance and Operations. In an email sent by the Office of the President Sept. 2, Anderson is set to assume his new role Nov. 1, pending approval from the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees. Anderson said he has spent all of his life in public universities, most of which have medical schools. He was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for seven years, so he and his wife got to know the Charleston, South Carolina, area when they lived there. "I always said it was one of those cities that we can live and work in," he said. "When this opportunity came up at the Medical University of South Carolina, and how they're governed and how they're structured between the health system and the university, was of interest to me." Before his role at UTRGV, Anderson was in a similar role at Washburn University in Kansas. "I was there six years and before that, I was at University [of] Missouri-Kansas City, which is where I worked with [UTRGV President] Guy Bailey," he said. "So, this is the second time I work for Guy Bailey. I had an opportunity to work with him in Kansas City in his first president's job, basically, a number of years ago, and, of course, we stayed in contact. And one of the reasons I'm here was because I had finance but I also had health care background, and so, when they were looking for a new executive vice president here, they knew I had health care and ... that was important because they were starting a new medical school here." Anderson said it was a difficult decision to make because his position and the opportunity to join President Bailey and his team have been unparalleled. "I feel like we've accomplished a lot of things," he said. "Again, it's a team

## Campus Carry policy holds strong



Luis Martinez Santillano/The Rider Photo

A gun-free-zone sign on the Brownsville campus explains the current campus concealed carry policy. If a firearm is seen without meeting the requirements, it can be reported to the University Police emergency line.

### Natalie Lapsley

**the rider**  
As of Sept. 1, changes to Texas gun law and the concept known as "permitless carry" went into effect. "Permitless carry" authorizes qualifying individuals to carry a firearm without a permit or training in places where doing so is not otherwise prohibited, according to Van Slusser, UTRGV's assistant chief of police. In Texas, an individual must still be eligible to carry a firearm either by state or federal law. "Permitless carry" does not apply to those under 21 years of age, felons or those who have been convicted of assault or domestic violence in the last 5 years. "That doesn't affect

anything on campus," Slusser said. "But, outside the campus environment, that change went into effect Sept. 1." On campus, the law is the same today as it was two years ago. The university's rules still fall under its Campus Carry policy. "Unless the person is a peace officer, you can't ever carry a handgun on campus that is not concealed," he said. "If you're carrying under Campus Carry, it has to be concealed and it has to be in a holster." Eligible individuals who wish to carry on campus must keep the firearm in

their immediate possession and secure in a holster that covers the trigger and keeps the firearm in place, Slusser said. If a firearm is observed in any other condition, it can be reported to the University Police. "That's what we're here for, to keep everyone safe," he said. "We'll happily come out and check things out and make sure things are on the up and up. You can contact us through our emergency line, (956) 882-4911." UTRGV's policy requires

**"Unless the person is a peace officer, you can't ever carry a handgun on campus that is not concealed."**  
--Van Slusser  
**UTRGV assistant chief of police**

an individual to go through a process before being able to carry firearms. "Basically, you have to be licensed with a permit," Slusser said. "You have to be at least 21 years of age. You have to go through a background check and be fingerprinted. You have to attend a training course." This process will allow an individual to carry concealed handguns on campus in areas not subject to exclusion. The university's Campus Carry policy is overseen by a small group created in 2016 to focus on gun policy, according to Noelyn Llasos, UTRGV's academic outreach coordinator and president of the Staff Senate. "It is a group that will continually be updating the policy if they need to," Llasos



## THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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## MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Today Last Day to Withdraw**  
Monday is the last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund.

### Bible Study

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

### K.I.S.S. Meeting

The **Korean International Student Society** will conduct a general meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. today and 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday in Education Complex 2.102 on the Edinburg campus. Students will have the opportunity to interact with people who are passionate about **Korean culture, music and language**. 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. today and Thursday via Zoom. Assignment assistance and studying motivation may be provided. RSVP is available on V Link.

### General Meeting

The **Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Association** will host a general meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to **inform about upcoming events**, such as volunteer opportunities with agencies in the community to gain experience as well as internship hours. RSVP is available on V Link.

### SLB Informational

The **Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity** will host a virtual workshop from 7 to 8 p.m.

via Zoom to **learn more about the values, history, leadership opportunities and academic success** that the fraternity offers to students. RSVP is available on V Link.

### Delight Ministries

**Delight Ministries Brownsville, a Christ-centered community for college women**, will host an event to learn more about Delight from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

### Tuesday Holy Mass

The **Catholic Campus Ministry** will conduct the **sacrament of the Eucharist** in Mass at the Newman Catholic Student Center from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday Cyberpunk Discussion

The **Science Fiction and Fantasy Interest Group** will host a meeting from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the topic of cyberpunk. All viewpoints and opinions on the topic are welcome, and anyone at UTRGV can participate. Zoom Meeting ID: 874 7089 5231

### Fiestas Patrias

The **Student Union** and the **Campus Activities Board** will host an event to celebrate the Independence of Mexico from 5 to 7 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and Thursday in the University Ballroom in Edinburg. There will be a traditional **Mexican dress contest, loteria games, rounds of Kahoot Mexico trivia and a piñata**. Free food will be given during the event.

### Thursday ASL Club Meeting

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 games and practice their skills at the event. RSVP is available on V Link.

### Friday Student Leadership Workshop

The **Student Leadership Academy** will conduct a workshop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus to provide students with meaningful **leadership development opportunities** that complement academic learning and enhance personal growth. RSVP is available on V Link.

### Mariachi Online Concert

**Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán** will present an online concert filmed in Tequila, Jalisco, México, at 2 p.m. Sept. 17 and 18 at utrgv.edu/patron.

### L.E.A.D.-Financial Training

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a conference from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom to **learn skills on how to create a budget, track expenses and plan effectively**. RSVP on V Link.

### Saturday Alium Spiritum at UTRGV

**Alium Spiritum**, a professional vocal quartet, will join the **UTRGV Chamber Singers** at 4:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center on the Brownsville campus. The event is part of the third annual **UTRGV TMEA All-State Choir Workshop**.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 2 and 8.



### Sept. 2

**4:04 p.m.:** A student reported the antenna to his vehicle had been removed while it was parked in Lot E-7 on the Edinburg campus. A police officer

viewed camera footage and confirmed the vehicle did not have the antenna prior to the student parking his vehicle on campus.

### Sept. 3

**11:06 a.m.:** A student reported his vehicle had been struck while it was parked, causing minor damage to the right panel. The student reported not knowing if the incident occurred on campus or at a business in McAllen. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

**12:21 p.m.:** A student reported his backpack was stolen from an unsecured locker at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**4:38 p.m.:** A student reported a tree branch had fallen on two vehicles parked in Lot E-38 on the Edinburg campus. Facilities arrived and removed the tree branch safely without further damage. Minor damages were reported to both vehicles.

**6:28 p.m.:** The Edinburg Fire Department and an officer responded to the Village Apartments in reference to an active fire alarm at the Edinburg

campus. Further investigation revealed a non-affiliated woman's young daughter had accidentally pulled the fire alarm pull station. The fire department reset the panel and cleared the apartments for re-entry.

### Sept. 4

**4:09 p.m.:** An officer observed the pedestrian signpost located on the 1100 block of West Van Week Street in Edinburg had been damaged. Further investigation revealed a large dump truck belonging to the City of Edinburg had run over the post. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

**4:47 p.m.:** A staff member reported losing a university-issued key about one year ago at her off-campus residence in San Juan.

### Sept. 6

**10:40 p.m.:** A student reported her bicycle seat had been stolen from the bike rack located at the Mathematics and General Classroom building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

### Sept. 7

**3:27 p.m.:** A staff member reported that his vehicle's front bumper was touching the rear bumper of a vehicle that was parked in front of his vehicle in Lot B-3 on the Brownsville campus. The staff member moved his vehicle and confirmed there was no visible damage caused to either bumper.

A report was generated for documentation purposes.

### Sept. 8

**9:11 a.m.:** An officer observed two men walking toward the bus stop on FJRM Avenue on the Brownsville campus, attempting to conceal themselves among the students. The officer and a U.S. Border Patrol agent made contact with the two men on the 2500 block of East Polk Street. The agent determined both men had entered the country illegally and detained them without incident. Their nationality was unknown.

**9:58 a.m.:** A student reported his personal laptop was stolen while it was left unattended at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**12:04 p.m.:** A student reported her vehicle's driver side door handle was damaged while it was parked in university Lot H-1 on the Harlingen campus. The case is under investigation.

**7:51 p.m.:** A student reported a Residence Life employee entered his room at the Casa Bella Apartment on the Brownsville campus without his permission. An officer made contact with the staff member who said he had conducted a health and safety check at the student's apartment. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

--Compiled by Valeria Henderson

### COVID

Continued from Page 1

but our Infectious Disease Committee has made a recommendation that we don't do that," he said.

TSC posted an update Sept. 4 stating, "Out of an abundance of caution, Texas Southmost College will transition to remote instruction beginning Tuesday, September 7 and returning to campus Monday, September 27."

Arney suggests students, faculty and staff continue to wear masks

and practice social distancing to protect themselves against COVID-19.

He said the best line of defense against the virus is to get vaccinated.

As of last Wednesday, UT Health RGV had reported 85,774 vaccine doses distributed.

In other COVID-19 news, Hidalgo and Cameron counties are experiencing a surge in cases.

Hidalgo County reported an additional 309 confirmed cases last Wednesday on its website, raising

the county's total to 109,844.

As of last Wednesday, the county reported eight additional deaths, raising its toll to 3,158.

Last Tuesday, Cameron County Public Health reported an additional 356 COVID-19 cases, raising its total to 50,296.

The county also reported 187 recovered, raising the total to 45,859, according to the news release.

Cameron County also reported three additional COVID-19 related deaths, raising its toll to 1,796.



# School of Nursing expanding



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE Rider Photos

The new School of Nursing building is currently in the design phase through November. Construction is expected to begin in January or February 2022. Completion is anticipated for June 2023, with the facility projected to open in Fall 2023.

**Valeria Henderson**  
the rider

The UTRGV School of Nursing will have a new building in Pharr that is scheduled to open in Fall 2023 with the aim of increasing enrollment.

Construction is scheduled to begin at 2800 N. Cage Blvd. in January or February of next year and is expected to be completed by June 2023, said Marta Salinas-Hovar, associate vice president for facilities planning and operations.

“The gross square footage of the proposed new building will be 52,613 gross square feet,” Salinas-Hovar said. “It’s going to be a two-story building.”

The City of Pharr, which is leading the project, will pay for the construction of the facility and then lease it to UTRGV for about 25 years, she said.

D. Wilson Construction of McAllen is the contractor that

has been selected by the city.

MaryJane Lewitt, interim dean for the School of Nursing, said, on average, there are about 200 students enrolled in the upper-division undergraduate nursing programs and an additional 100 students enrolled in the graduate programs.

“For those of you who are in nursing or thinking about going into nursing or nursing practice, this is going to be a great facility to learn in and to get real-life experiences in, to prepare you for your profession,” Salinas-Hovar said.

A signing of the agreement between the City of Pharr and UTRGV took place Sept. 2 at the site.

“I think it is a good way to have a more independent structure for, like, a baseline,” junior nursing major Samantha Avila said when asked about the expansion.

Although Avila expects to

graduate before the facility is completed, she said it will be helpful because students will not have to go to a hospital or a different facility to access resources that are available to students at UTRGV.

“This was kind of born out of an extremely positive working relationship between [UTRGV President Guy] Bailey and the mayor of Pharr,” Lewitt said. “The two of them are looking at different options for being able to, No. 1, meet the needs of students here at UTRGV. But also, from [Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez’s] point of view, he would really like to see an expansion of health care and health care access for the residents of his county and his city.”

The Rio Grande Valley is experiencing a significant shortage of nurses across all the counties that make up the Valley, Lewitt said.

“According to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, we are short approximately 6,000 nurses, currently, and that shortage is not projected to decrease through 2032,” she said.

The goal for the new facility is to enroll more students, hire more faculty, and have additional clinical contracts for students across all of the hospitals of the Valley, Lewitt said.

“The ability to expand enrollment is based upon a few different factors--space definitely being one of them,” she said. “The other two are availability of appropriate clinical sites in the community and the availability of knowledgeable faculty. This new building will allow us to address the first issue, space ... which gives us a big opportunity to move forward and address the other two.”

Lewitt said the new facility will be completely state of

the art.

“We have, I believe, six classrooms for the undergraduate program and three more classrooms for the graduate program,” she said. “Plus, those full state-of-the-art simulation center and skills lab for our undergraduate students and a full state-of-the-art simulation and skills lab along with a clinic ... for the graduate program.”

Lewitt said faculty from the Edinburg campus will relocate to the new building in Pharr, but the university will still maintain its nursing programs on the Brownsville campus.

“A new building is always an amazing thing for both students and for faculty,” she said. “And this is a moment of joy, but this is also a moment to recognize the fact that our community and our university is extremely supportive of nurses, not only nursing students but nurses across the entire Valley.”



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE Rider Photos

The facility will help expand the university’s nursing programs to increase enrollment at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels, as well as broaden the K-12 pipeline already in place with local high schools, according to a UTRGV news release. The project is expected to create 750 jobs and generate \$30 million in private investment, according to a U.S. Department of Commerce news release.

# City tables budget approval

**Valeria Henderson**  
the rider

The Brownsville City Commission voted Tuesday night to table the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and approve the budgets for the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp. and the Brownsville Community Improvement Corp.

Helen Ramirez, CEO and executive director of the GBIC, presented the operating budget that totals \$1,699,598 and an initiatives budget of \$2.9 million.

Expenditures in the GBIC operating budget include \$450,200 for personnel services and benefits; \$496,398 for administrative services; \$155,500 for materials and supplies; \$26,000 for maintenance of buildings and structures; \$221,500 for miscellaneous services; \$150,000 for appraisals, surveys and reports, impact studies, attorney and auditor fees; \$185,000 for consulting and marketing services; and \$15,000 for landscape and maintenance.

Expenses in the GBIC initiatives budget include \$1.2 million for industrial park development and infrastructure; \$600,000 for manufacturing and workforce development

education and training; \$850,000 for space and technology-related recruitment and marketing programs; and \$250,000 for professional studies and consultant support for strategic initiatives.

“The consulting and marketing services have to do with a campaign for a new Air and Space campus,” Ramirez said. “So, as we see some of those new companies are over space related, air related. So, we want to ensure that we are able to really create a campaign, not only local but national and international, in terms of being a point of reference for air and space technology in Brownsville.”

Josh Mejia, executive director of BCIC, introduced the operations budget amount of \$1,072,570 and the self-directed initiatives budget, which is \$7.47 million.

Costs in the BCIC operating budget include \$788,320 for personnel services; \$19,250 for materials and supplies; \$3,000 for maintenance of buildings and structures; \$6,000 for maintenance of equipment; and \$256,000 for miscellaneous services.

Monies allocated in the BCIC self-directed initiatives budget include \$3 million for the eBridge project, \$1 million for the economic impact grant,



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE Rider

During their meeting Tuesday night, members of the Brownsville City Commission voted to table the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Shown (from left) are Commissioner At-Large “A” John Cowen Jr., District 4 Commissioner Pedro Cardenas, Mayor Trey Mendez, District 1 Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana and District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos.

\$569,701 for Big 1.0 Grants-Interior/Exterior/Signage/Rent Subsidy, \$500,000 for StartUp Texas COVID-19 business assistance grants, \$50,000 for cultural events or marketing campaigns and \$30,000 for women empowerment programs.

“In addition to this, you all may have seen already on 13th Street and Adams, the eBridge Center [for Business and Commercialization] is now being constructed,” Mejia said. “There’s a gap in the roof now as we’re building the elevation into the existing roof. We are expecting for this project to be completed in February of 2022.”

Commissioners tabled the second and final reading of the \$158.5 million Fiscal Year 2022 city budget until Sept. 21 after District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos said he had some questions.

“I would say, on the public library, I think there are some opportunities that we’ve missed here and as a department I have not had a chance to dig into yet with staff,” said De los Santos, who made the motion to table action on the budget. “But, I have dug in with [the] municipal court. There [is] still some additional information they’re providing. I’m confident that I’ll be satisfied with what I get in that area. I’d

like to see it before I vote and approve the budget for that.”

On Wednesday, Commissioner At-Large “B” Rose Gowen told The Rider, “The city manager requested that if there were still questions about those three items or any three items that we table the budget all together and then reconsider it at the next meeting which will be, I believe the 21st because, by statute or charter, we have to approve the budget by the end of September.”

The next city commission meeting will take place at 5 p.m. Sept. 21.





**STREAMING SERVICES**

On Sept. 8, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which streaming service do you use the most?" The results are shown below.

**facebook**

**NETFLIX** 65

**HULU** 18

**HBO MAX** 16

**DISNEY+** 6

**twitter**

**12** **NETFLIX**

**5** **HULU**

**2** **DISNEY+**

**1** **HBO MAX**

**Instagram**

**NETFLIX** 23

**HULU** 15

**HBO MAX** 8

**DISNEY+** 4

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**Netflix and chill**



**Daisy Araujo**  
THE RIDER

As a full-time student at UTRGV with a part-time job, sometimes it is hard to find a moment to myself. I feel as if the weeks tend to go by super fast.

When I wake up, it is Monday, and the next day it is already Friday. But watching Netflix helps me slow down time and get away from everything.

I like to turn on the TV and put on my favorite show on Netflix, "New Girl," which is a sitcom. It makes my day, being able to binge-watch multiple episodes and laugh along with my sisters while snacking on Sour Patch Kids and different kinds of chips. This is what I look forward to after a long week of school and work.

I believe Netflix is a great way to spend quality time with friends and family. I like to get together with my friends and

have a movie night and argue about what movie to watch. It is the small things Netflix does for us that I love about it.

For instance, watching Netflix fits every mood I am in. If I am happy, I tend to watch "Grey's Anatomy" or different Korean dramas because the shows are interesting or funny. When I feel down or stressed, I like to watch the movie "Holiday" because I am a hopeless romantic and it

cup of hot chocolate with lots of tiny marshmallows and binge-watch your favorite show or movie.

I like how it feels as if you are actually in the movie or show, and next thing you know, you are three seasons into a show at 3 a.m. Watching Netflix is a great pastime for introverts like myself because you get to spend time with yourself.

Netflix can also be good background noise for when things are quiet at home. Some people work better while watching something because it provides comfort, especially when doing homework or if you just want to sit down on your phone.

Watching Netflix is a pastime I like doing after a tiring day or week. It gives me comfort to watch a show or a movie in my free time, and it is nice to spend time with my family on the weekends.

It is a little bit harder to catch up with my favorite shows on the weekdays because I tend to procrastinate on my schoolwork. If you ever have free time, I would recommend watching Netflix.

**"I believe Netflix is a great way to spend quality time with friends and family."**

makes me feel better.

Netflix offers a variety of shows and movies with different genres. In my family, we all have different genre preferences. While my little sister likes to watch mystery and romance TV shows, my older sister likes action and suspense movies.

Netflix helps me escape from my worries as I watch a movie or show with a loved one, my pet or spending some time alone. Especially in the fall or winter, it is nice to cuddle up with a blanket and a

**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.*



# Cambios en la ley de armas

## La política de Campus Carry se mantiene fuerte



Luis Martinez Santillano/FOTO Rider

Se muestra el edificio de la Policía Universitaria en el campus de Brownsville. La policía de UTRGV continuará actuando bajo la política de transporte oculto del campus. Si se observa un arma de fuego en cualquier otra condición, se puede reportar a la policía universitaria a través de la línea de emergencia, (956) 882-4911.

fuego en su posesión inmediata y asegurada en una funda que cubre el gatillo y mantiene el arma en su lugar, dijo Slusser.

Si se observa un arma de fuego en cualquier otra condición, se puede denunciar a la policía universitaria.

“Para eso estamos aquí, para mantener a todos a salvo”, dijo. “Con mucho gusto saldremos y comprobaremos las cosas y nos aseguraremos de que las cosas vayan bien.”

**“A menos que la persona sea un oficial del orden público, nunca se puede llevar una pistola en el campus que no esté oculta.”**

La política de UTRGV requiere que una persona pase por un proceso antes de poder portar armas de fuego.

“Básicamente, debe tener una licencia con un permiso”, dijo Slusser. “Tienes que tener al menos 21 años. Tiene que pasar por una verificación de antecedentes y que le tomen las huellas digitales. Tienes que asistir a un curso de formación”.

Este proceso permitirá que una persona lleve armas de fuego ocultas en el campus en áreas no sujetas a exclusión.

La política de Campus

Carry de la universidad es supervisada por un pequeño grupo creado en 2016 para enfocarse en la política de armas, según Noelyn Llasos, coordinadora de extensión académica de UTRGV y presidenta del Senado de Personal.

“Es un grupo que actualizará continuamente la política si es necesario”, dijo Llasos sobre el grupo de trabajo Campus Carry. “Por bien. Puede encontrarnos a través de nuestra línea de emergencia, (956) 882-4911”.

**—Van Slusser**  
**UTRGV jefe de policía**

exclusión y Campus Carry en línea en [utrgv.edu/campuscarry](http://utrgv.edu/campuscarry), dijo.

Primero vienen a la mente los lugares donde se atiende a los menores, dijo Llasos sobre las zonas de exclusión, como el Centro de Desarrollo Infantil de la UTRGV y el edificio de Educación de la UTRGV.

Ciertos laboratorios, sitios clínicos, áreas de asesoramiento, eventos deportivos y otros espacios

Vea CAMBIOS, Page 8

### Natalie Lapsley

the rider

A partir del 1 de septiembre, entraron en vigencia los cambios a la ley de armas de Texas y el concepto conocido como “porte sin permiso”.

El “porte sin permiso” autoriza a las personas calificadas a portar un arma de fuego sin un permiso o capacitación en lugares donde no está prohibido hacerlo, según Van Slusser, jefe de policía de UTRGV.

En Texas, una persona aún debe ser elegible para portar un arma de fuego, según la ley estatal o federal.

El “transporte sin permiso” no se aplica a menores de 21 años, delincuentes o personas que hayan sido condenadas por agresión o violencia doméstica en los últimos 5 años.

“Eso no afecta nada en el campus”, dijo Slusser. “Pero, fuera del entorno del campus, ese cambio entró en vigor el 1 de septiembre”.

En el campus, la ley es la misma hoy que hace dos años. Las reglas de la universidad todavía caen bajo su política de Campus Carry.

“A menos que la persona sea un oficial del orden público, nunca se puede llevar una pistola en el campus que no esté oculta”, dijo. “Si lo lleva debajo de Campus Carry, debe estar oculto y debe estar en una funda”.

Las personas elegibles que deseen llevarlas al campus deben mantener el arma de

# Regresan las Fiestas Patrias a UTRGV

### Fatima Gamez Lopez

EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

UTRGV celebrará la Independencia de México el miércoles y jueves con concursos, comida, juegos y música en ambas instalaciones en conmemoración a las fiestas patrias.

El evento tomará lugar de las 5 a 7 p.m. El miércoles en PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón en Brownsville y al mismo tiempo el jueves en el University Ballroom en Edinburg, dijo Juan Castellanos, presidente de la Junta de Actividades del Campus.

La conmemoración se planea realizar completamente en persona y no se tiene planeado tenerla en línea.

De acuerdo con Castellanos, UTRGV alienta a los estudiantes el uso del cubrebocas y se espera que sea “un gran evento” ya que es una tradición que se realiza cada año.

Cuando se le preguntó a Angela Gutierrez, estudiante de estudios bilingües interdisciplinarios, sobre su opinión acerca de los eventos en persona, ella contestó, “Personalmente, pienso que es genial asistir a los eventos porque te ayuda a involucrarte con la gente y es una experiencia divertida. Prefiero asistir a los eventos en persona para tener toda la experiencia universitaria”. “Siempre hemos visto un



Foto Archivada de The Rider

Las Fiestas Patrias es un evento que se realiza cada año en honor al día de la Independencia de México. Este año, el evento se llevará a cabo de 5 a 7 p.m. el miércoles en PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón en el campus de Brownsville y el jueves en el University Ballroom en el campus de Edinburg.

cambio en la participación de los estudiantes en los eventos”, dijo Mabel Cortina-Matos, directora de eventos de la Unión Estudiantil en UTRGV. “A veces tenemos muchos estudiantes y a veces el evento es un poco más pequeño”.

Castellanos aseguró que el tener al Unión Estudiantil como anfitrión del evento al brindar comida a los estudiantes será un gran paso que los acercará a la normalidad antes de la pandemia.

“Lo que hemos visto desde el comienzo del semestre es una gran participación de los estudiantes en los eventos”, dijo Cortina-Matos. “Hemos visto alta

asistencia y alta participación en los últimos eventos de la universidad”.

Castellanos dijo, “Estamos planeando tener una trivia mexicana y también vamos a tener un concurso de trajes tradicionales mexicanos. Los ganadores del concurso y la trivia mexicana recibirán AirPods, pero los ganadores recibirán un artículo promocional de su elección”.

Durante el evento se regalan artículos de UTRGV y se cerrará el evento con una piñata mexicana.

“El propósito de este evento es educar a las personas sobre diferentes culturas a las suyas”, dijo Castellanos. “Estamos tratando de que la gente sepa sobre las Fiestas

Patrias y por qué las celebran, sobre todo porque estamos tan cerca de la frontera con México”.

De acuerdo con Castellanos las fiestas patrias son una tradición que se ha mantenido desde años en UTRGV.

La mayoría de los estudiantes son hispanos, es por eso que UTRGV quiere asegurarse que las fiestas patrias se mantengan como una tradición, de acuerdo con Castellanos.

“El evento es para darles a los estudiantes la oportunidad de celebrar el evento de fiestas patrias, que es un gran evento en la cultura mexicana”, dijo Cortina-Matos. “Es una fiesta

que celebra la independencia de México, que les dará a los estudiantes la oportunidad de aprender sobre el poder y también de poder celebrar el evento”.

La Unión Estudiantil colaborará con las Actividades del Campus. durante las fiestas patrias, durante el evento se estarán regalando cajas bento de ensalada de taco “increíblemente deliciosas”, de acuerdo con Cortina-Matos.

Toda la comida será empaquetada individualmente para que los estudiantes puedan comer de forma independiente.

“Creo que para nosotros, como administradores de eventos, nos tomamos la seguridad muy en serio”, dijo Cortina-Matos. “Siempre nos aseguramos de que haya muchos cubrebocas disponibles y mucho desinfectante de manos disponible.”

“Donde antes podíamos haber tenido un buffet de comida ahora nos aseguramos de que toda la comida sea empaquetada individualmente y manejada específicamente por nuestros socios del campus Sodexo, quienes tienen los más altos estándares de calidad y seguridad. Entonces esos son los elementos en los que pensamos antes de exponer realmente todos los detalles del evento”.



## UTRGV Theatre back on the Stage

**Kaitlyn Polvado**  
A&E Reporter

UTRGV's theater season commences with its production of "Tomás and the Library Lady" at 7 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

After a long halt on performances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UTRGV's theater productions recommence with the production written by Pat Mora and adapted into a play by José Cruz González. There will also be additional showings of the play, including one with ASL interpretation and one that will be sensory friendly.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic rising in cases across the nation, protocols have been put in place in order to "keep the community safe," according to Alexandra Gonzalez, the theatre business manager. "We have distanced seating in our Jeffers theatre this semester, so seating for shows will be a bit more limited. The theatre is also cleaned and sanitized before and after each show. Masks are strongly encouraged at our performances and we will have masks for patrons, should they request them."

The theater has experienced difficulty getting the word out about its events with the limitations of the pandemic.

"It's been a little bit of a challenge

to figure out what are the best ways to make sure news about our auditions and events is being seen by students, especially if a lot of students [and the] UTRGV community are not on campus on a regular basis due to online courses and whatnot," Gonzalez said. "We've definitely had to work harder to make sure we are really utilizing all of our social media outlets this time around."

This fall, tickets for every show will be free and are open seating, meaning there will be no reservations for the shows.

"We recommend that people arrive early so that they can be assured they get seats for the performances," Gonzalez said.

The second production by the Theatre Department will be "The Weird," by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa and directed by Peter Mikolasky, interim chair of the UTRGV Department of Theatre, which will showcase a collection

Kaitlyn Polvado/The Rider Graphic

### 2021-2022 Schedule:

#### Fall 2021

##### "Tomás and the Library Lady"

- Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 2, 2 p.m. - Sensory Friendly Performance
- Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. - ASL Interpretation
- Oct. 3, 2 p.m.

##### "The Weird"

[CONTAINS MATURE CONTENT]

- Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. - ASL Interpretation
- Oct. 24, 2 p.m.
- Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.

#### Spring 2022

##### "Coriolanus"

- Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. - ASL Interpretation
- Feb. 27, 2 p.m.
- March 4, 7:30 p.m.
- March 5, 7:30 p.m.
- March 6, 2 p.m.

##### "Red"

- April 22, 7:30 p.m.
- April 23, 7:30 p.m.
- April 24, 2 p.m.

##### "Seymour the Troll"

- April 30, 7:30 p.m. - ASL Interpretation
- May 1, 2 p.m.

of short horror and pulp plays.

Aguirre-Sacasa is a TV writer who worked on shows, such as "Riverdale," "Glee" and the "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina." This show will not allow children to attend due to the adult content included

in the performance, such as profanity and violence.

For questions about upcoming 2021-2022 performances, email the theatre box office at [theatreboxoffice@utrgv.edu](mailto:theatreboxoffice@utrgv.edu) or visit the Theatre Department website.

### Daily Musings by Ariael Ortiz



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## Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

**Alejandra Yañez**  
The rider

- Aries**-For all your fiery passion and temper, you do not truly like fighting. But you cannot help yourself. Be cautious of where your impulses lead you this week.
- Taurus**-You may be worrying that those who mean the most to you will easily forget about you. Know that you are wanted and you are appreciated. Focus your energy on those who give you that validation.
- Gemini**-Changing yourself for others is something you may be too comfortable with. Know that you do not have to try so hard to fit in. Not everyone needs to be your friend.
- Cancer**-You may feel that you have to act happy all the time because your gloom might make others upset. Allow those you love to care for you when you are down and do not worry so much about disappointing them.
- Leo**-Stop thinking everything is your fault and that you are not lovable. The more you act tough and like you don't care, the more your fears become reality.
- Virgo**-You are great at making others believe that you have it all together. But really, you are struggling to handle life and it may be hard for you to stay positive. Embrace the struggle.
- Libra**-You would rather invest in others than in yourself because you hate having to deal with your own problems. Take some of your own advice this week.
- Scorpio**-People tend to trust you easily and this is something you pride yourself on. However, you have a hard time trusting others. Learn from those who confide in you and let down your walls a bit.
- Sagittarius**-You were made to love and be loved. When you do not have companionship you tend to feel hopeless, but know that new love is around the corner.
- Capricorn**-Your hidden agenda to get to the top may be preventing you from getting deeper with people. Remember to separate your ambitions and relationships.
- Aquarius**-You do not always feel emotions the way you think you should and it may scare you. In your relationships you tend to not feel everything right away, which makes you second guess yourself. Know that you need to take things slow before abandoning ship. Good things come to those who wait.
- Pisces**-You are the definition of a daydreamer. Do not be afraid to ask for help when you find that you have spent too much time with your head in the clouds.



# SPORTS SCHEDULE

## WOMEN'S SOCCER



7 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY (HOME)

1 P.M. SUNDAY VS. KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (AWAY)



## MEN'S SOCCER

12 P.M. SATURDAY (SEPT. 25) VS. CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY (AWAY)



## VOLLEYBALL

PIRATE INVITATIONAL  
10 A.M. FRIDAY VS. APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY (AWAY)

6:30 P.M. FRIDAY VS. EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY (AWAY)

11 A.M. SATURDAY VS. GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY (AWAY)

# The next step



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE Rider

UTRGV freshman guard Kacee Kyle dribbles, looking to shoot the ball during practice last Wednesday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. Coach Lane Lord said the team has been focusing on offense this season.

### Omar E. Zapata SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV Women's Basketball Head Coach Lane Lord said he believes it is time for the program to take the next step and expects the team to be at the top of the league this coming season.

Lord told The Rider the team is excited for the opportunity to play after dealing with various road bumps last season.

"So, just kind of getting back to normalcy is really exciting for our team," he said. "And we feel like we've got a chance to compete at the top of this league. We like our talent, and we like our culture and so we're just excited to get going but, most importantly, we're excited to get the fans back, the cheerleaders back, the band. ... Not to have those guys last year with us, you know, the atmosphere wasn't what we normally like. So, to have those guys back, we're excited about that."

Lord said the team is also excited about a new offense it's putting in this season.

"We've been spending a lot of time on offense, taking care of the basketball, cutting down on our turnovers, and then really improving our three-point shooting," he said. "So we've been working on all offense. We're getting ready to start putting our defensive plan into effect, but most of the summer and in this early part of fall, [we have] been working on the new offense."

Lord said the team is young but will rely on the experience that a lot of the players got last year.

"A lot of kids got to play that were freshmen and sophomores and now they have that Division 1 experience," he said. "We think it's really going to pay off for us."

Last season, the basketball team recorded a 6-14 overall record, but Lord said the record "doesn't matter" due to COVID-19 limiting their time to practice together as a

team and even canceling various games.

"We were 4-2 at the Christmas break and we came back, and we had 42 days that we missed practice in January and February," he said. "And, so, when you don't practice, and then you come out of a quarantine situation, we may get one practice in after 14 days and then go try to play two games back-to-back nights. It was just really tough."

"And that went on for the whole month in January and February. So, you know, injuries come along when that happens as well, when you're not in your routine

**"When you don't practice, and then you come out of a quarantine situation, we may get one practice in after 14 days and then go try to play two games back-to-back nights. It was just really tough."**

**-Lane Lord  
Women's Basketball Head Coach**

of practicing. So, you know, we did a great job with just finishing the season and I'm proud of that."

Junior guard Sara Bershers was one of the players who dealt with injuries last season but still managed to get an All Western Athletic Conference (WAC) honorable mention. Bershers said it was "awesome" to get the honorable mention.

"I only played half the season last year and my sophomore and freshman year, I didn't play very much either because of injury," she said. "So, I'm excited to get back healthy and, hopefully, play a full season this year."

Bershers said she's been doing a lot of treatment along with strength and conditioning with her team to get their bodies ready to go and play for a full season. She also said she has been trying to eat better.

Lord said he believes Bershers will be one of the best players in the league this coming season.

Graduate center Burcu

Soysal told The Rider she is also excited for this season since she did not get to play much her first season here and last year dealt with injuries as well.

"We've been doing, like, a lot of strengthening and, like, conditioning," Soysal said. "And I can get in shape more, like, so I can play better, you know, and also been working with coaches to, like, get better with my basketball skills. So, I think that was going to help me a lot also. Like, I'm taking care of my body right now ... to, like, prevent the injuries during the season."

Lord said the team has a great non-conference schedule this season, and said it is balanced.

They open up the season Nov. 9 in Tampa, Florida, against the University of South Florida, who are the defending American Athletic Conference champions and were ranked 19 last season.

"Then, we have [Texas A&M University] Corpus Christi twice," he said. "Once at the Bert Ogden Arena and then once over at their place. We go to Northern Colorado, we go to the University of Kansas and then we have some Texas teams at home."

The home games include battles against Houston Baptist University and the University of the Incarnate Word.

"We're excited about those," Lord said. "We've never played those guys, but they're in the Southland Conference with Corpus. And then, we have our big tournament, our South Padre Island Classic and we'll play Liberty University and University of Texas at San Antonio."

"I think we have good girls that are wanting to put the work in and to be, you know, the best in the league," Bershers said. "I think we all have a really good chemistry, we all really like each other. So, you know, that tends to help on the court. So, I think we have a chance to be something super special."



**LAW***Continued from Page 1*

said about the Campus Carry working group. "From what I understand, they will convene if they need to review this policy."

Updated information about exclusion zones and Campus Carry can be found online at [utrgv.edu/campuscarry](http://utrgv.edu/campuscarry), she said.

Places where minors are dealt

with come to mind first, Llasos said about exclusion zones, such as the UTRGV Child Development Center and the UTRGV Education building.

Certain laboratories, clinical sites, counseling areas, athletic events and other similar spaces also count as exclusion zones.

"Keep safety first," Llasos said in a message about campus security. "They can pass different bills and laws. The thing is, it is a personal

responsibility to keep our campus community safe."

So far, any individuals who carry concealed weapons on campus have proved to be responsible gun owners, Slusser said.

"Campus Carry has been around for four or five years now," he said. "We've never had an arrest or any criminal charges resulting from issues stemming from Campus Carry."

University Police will continue to act according to UTRGV's Campus Carry policy in ensuring the safety of the campus environment.

"If somebody does choose to carry a firearm," Slusser said, "they need to know their rights and their responsibilities. For everybody else, if you see something that doesn't look right, or that looks suspicious, please let us know."

**OPPORTUNITIES***Continued from Page 1*

approach. I can't take all the credit for it, I can take some of the credit for it, and this was an opportunity in South Carolina to do some of the same things with their health systems."

Asked about his transition to his new role, Anderson replied that Bailey and Janna Arney, UTRGV deputy president, spoke with his team and between now and his last day in office, he will be working with campus leadership to ensure a smooth transition.

"I think my last day in the office will probably be around Oct. 15, that's probably what it looks like right now," he said. "As far as interim or permanent leadership or other things like that, all of those things are under consideration right now, but I don't think anything specific that's going to be announced here soon."

Anderson said his office has presented UTRGV's five-year financial

plan to the University of Texas System Board of Regents at its last meeting, which includes what kind of financial accomplishments it has made and what its capabilities are to make reinvestments in the enterprise.

"We're set up from a financial standpoint for UTRGV to start making some additional capital investment in the future of the enterprise to grow, both on the health care side and on the university side," he said.

Anderson said his experience at UTRGV has been an unbelievable opportunity.

"To help start UTRGV and their new medical school here in South Texas, not that many individuals get a chance to do that," he said. "And it has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the Rio Grande Valley. Hopefully, I left the place better than I found it, which is always your goal, and leave UTRGV set up for future success for whoever takes over for me."

Patrick Gonzales, associate

vice president for Marketing and Communications at UTRGV, said it was a bittersweet announcement because he had gotten to know Anderson well in the last five years.

"He and his family will be missed at UTRGV," Gonzales said. "His wife, Julie, serves as an optometrist specialist for UT Health RGV, but at the same time, I know that this is a great opportunity for him to further his career and move back to an area that he has worked at before."

He said Anderson played a pivotal role in growing the university's operating budget.

"When you think about where UTRGV was when he got here and where it is now, it's a drastic improvement," Gonzales said. "And we owe a lot of that to Rick."

He said in order to be a successful university, you have to be able to cultivate and develop partnerships within the community.

"UTRGV serves a big community,

all the way from South Padre Island to Rio Grande City, that's a big area," Gonzales said. "If you just kind of look at some of the different partnerships that we've been able to develop, you know, in Harlingen with the early high school, with this recent cancer center in McAllen, our research center in McAllen, the new natatorium in Pharr, you know, Rick played a role in all of those."

He said his impact with UTRGV's partnerships, with the cities and the communities, has been important during his time with the university.

Asked what message he had for Anderson, Gonzales responded, "Thank you, on behalf of all of UTRGV, students, faculty and staff. Thank you for your five years of service and for putting UTRGV in a better position now than when you found it in 2016. We just thank him for his hard work and dedication to the university."

**CAMBIOS***Continuación de Página 5*

similares también cuentan como zonas de exclusión.

"Mantenga la seguridad primero", dijo Llasos en un mensaje sobre la seguridad del campus. "Pueden aprobar diferentes proyectos de

ley y leyes. La cuestión es que es una responsabilidad personal mantener segura la comunidad de nuestro campus".

Hasta ahora, cualquier individuo que lleve armas ocultas en el campus ha demostrado ser un propietario responsable de armas, dijo Slusser.

"Campus Carry existe desde hace cuatro o cinco años", dijo. "Nunca hemos tenido un arresto o cargos criminales como resultado de problemas derivados de Campus Carry".

La Policía Universitaria continuará actuando de acuerdo con la política de Campus Carry de UTRGV para

garantizar la seguridad del entorno del campus.

"Si alguien elige portar un arma de fuego", dijo Slusser, "necesita conocer sus derechos y responsabilidades. Para todos los demás, si ve algo que no se ve bien o que parece sospechoso, háganoslo saber".

--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

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