

ON CAMPUS/LOCAL



'Collegiate high school opens in Harlingen'
Page 3

NOTICIAS



'LUPE Votes busca candidatos para el Distrito 15 del Congreso'
Página 5

A&E



'School of Music auditions continue'
Page 8

SPORTS



'Different court, same result'
Page 9

BETO VISITS BROWNSVILLE

Gubernatorial candidate to focus on education, infrastructure and jobs



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

Former Congressman Beto O'Rourke (right) announces his candidacy for Texas governor and discusses the power grid failure during the February freeze, broadband internet and current immigration laws alongside Mayor Trey Mendez at La Plaza Terminal in Brownsville Nov. 18.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Former Congressman Beto O'Rourke met with Brownsville Mayor Trey Mendez Nov. 18 on the fourth day of his campaign for Texas governor.

The former 2018 U.S. Senate Democratic nominee and 2020 presidential contender announced he is running for governor, challenging incumbent Republican Greg Abbott.

"It's really an honor for me to host him in the first week of his campaign in our great city and talk about all that's happening in Brownsville," Mendez said at the news conference held at La Plaza Terminal in downtown Brownsville.

In a video announcing his campaign Nov. 15, O'Rourke touched on the negligence of elected officials with the power grid failure during the February freeze, causing millions of Texans to go without power and

water for days.

Before the news conference, the mayor told O'Rourke about the city's plans to incorporate broadband internet and its own micro grid for the city.

"If the power grid fails again, Brownsville is going to be protected because it's going to set up its own electricity infrastructure," O'Rourke said.

He said he wants to be part of this initiative and help represent the programs
See **BETO**, Page 3

Making changes

UTRGV works with TSC to address art students' concerns



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

Amid the discourse surrounding the Athletics Fee Referendum, students have raised concerns regarding the quality of university art facilities and the funding for art programs.

During the Nov. 11 Athletics Fee Referendum news conference on the Edinburg campus, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the art facilities on campus are "very poor quality" and that the university will announce a solution soon.

Kimberly Sandoval, Student Government Association senator at large, said her goal is to get the university to start making changes.

"I'm glad that it's reached the president's ears," Sandoval said in an interview Nov. 15. "It's being acknowledged. Whether that means that we're going to have the kind of change that we want is kind of left in the air, the kind of change we expect. Maybe, maybe, we'll actually get them to fix some stuff."

In a Nov. 8 interview, she said the reason the School of Music receives more funding than the School of Art is the enrollment numbers.

The School of Art and Design has 757 reportable students
See **CHANGES**, Page 6

SGA urges increase in campus security

Valeria Henderson
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has proposed a resolution calling for greater security measures on all campuses, especially at night, amid recent incidents of sexual assault, burglary and aggravated assault by deadly weapon.

During its Nov. 16 meeting on the Brownsville campus and via Zoom, the senate said it would send the resolution to the Campus Life and

Community Affairs standing committee for review.

Senate Resolution 06 Security Measure notes that the SGA has received concerns from students about safety on campus, and cites:

--the UTRGV Annual Security and Fire Safety Report of 2020, which documents an increase in rape, burglary, and robbery cases, and a 150% increase in stalking incidents on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the report documented incidents of rape,
See **SGA**, Page 6



Valeria Henderson/THE RIDER

Members of the Student Government Association welcome new appointees, Kimberly Moran and Mariana Estevan during the Nov. 16 senate meeting on the Brownsville campus. Moran will serve as senator-at-large for Edinburg, and Estevan (seated, third from left), as sergeant-at-arms.

Correction

Due to a reporting error, an article headlined "UTRGV se une para ayudar a las familias que más lo necesitan," which was published in the Nov. 15 issue of The Rider, incorrectly attributed some quotes to April Muñoz, program coordinator for Student Organizations. The actual source was Nadia Valdez, student assistant for Student Rights and Responsibilities and manager of the Student Food Pantry at UTRGV. The Rider corrects the attribution on Page 7 of this issue.

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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Verilu Infante

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Danielle Perez

COPY EDITORS
Alejandra Yañez
Arisbeth Rodriguez

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
Ariael Ortiz

SPORTS REPORTERS
Omar E. Zapata
Yamileth Rodriguez

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Kaitlyn Polvado

SPANISH EDITOR
Fatima Gamez Lopez

REPORTERS
Brigitte Ortiz
Valeria Henderson
Natalie Lapsley
Gabriella Garcia

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Roxanna Miranda
Luis Martinez Santillano
Citlalli Torres

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT
Diana Alvarez-Tovar
Itzel Rivera

MARKETING SPECIALISTS
Monica Llanas
Alexis Ramos

FACULTY ADVISER
Michell Escajeda

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR
Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER
Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:
EDINBURG CAMPUS
1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170
Phone: (956) 665-2541
Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
1 West University Blvd.
Student Union 2.16
Phone: (956) 882-5143
Fax: (956) 882-5176
Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu
© 2021 The Rider

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Bible Study
Christians at RGV will host a **Bible study** from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom and from

noon to 1:45 p.m. in person in Music, Science and Learning Center 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. 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 2 p.m. today and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday in Education Complex 2.102 on the Edinburg campus. Students can interact with people who are passionate about **Korean culture, music and language**. RSVP is available on V Link.

Turning Point USA

Turning Point USA at UTRGV, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that educates and organizes students on the benefits of freedom, fiscal responsibility and small government, will conduct an **informational session** from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. The organization will distribute stickers, posters and buttons from the national organization.

UndocuStories

The **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** will host **Community Connections: UndocuStories (with Yesi)** from 1 to 2 p.m. via Zoom for students to get to know “Dreamer” students and learn how to better support them. RSVP is available on V Link.

Repro-Health Tote Bag

The **Intersectional Feminist Student Organization** will conduct a **distribution of repro-health tote bags** from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Viola/Violin Student Recital

Students in School of Music Professor **Joel Pagán’s Viola/Violin Studio**

will perform a variety of traditional and contemporary works in a recital at 5 p.m. today in the UTRGV Library Auditorium in Edinburg. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series**.

Tuesday Breakfast Wrangler

The **Student Union** will host the **Breakfast Wrangler** at 9 a.m. in the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Wednesday in the Student Union East Patio on the Edinburg campus. There will be free food, games, music and prizes.

Graphic Thoughts

The **UTRGV Library** will conduct **Graphic Thoughts-What Are You Reading?** from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom to discuss comics and graphic novels. RSVP is available on V Link.

Wednesday The People Series

The **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** will host **The People Series: ACT UP** from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom to learn about a coalition founded in 1987 to fight to end the AIDS crisis. RSVP is available on V Link.

Coffee and Careers

Students can ask the **Career Center** about **career exploration, internship opportunities and resume reviews** from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom. Register on Handshake or email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

Chess Night

The **Chess Club** will host **chess night** from 5 to 6 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building 2.207 on the Edinburg campus and from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday in Sabal Hall 2.102 on the Brownsville campus.

Recital Chamber Music

The **UTRGV Double Bass Studio Recital: Chamber Music** will take place at 7 p.m. in the UTRGV Library Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. The event is part

of the **Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series**.

Home for the Holidays

The **Home for the Holidays** concert will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The **UTRGV vocal and instrumental ensembles** kick off the performance with a variety of **classic and contemporary music**, including “O Holy Night,” “Sleigh Ride,” “White Christmas,” and a sing-along. Admission is free. The event is part of the **Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series**.

Thursday Thursday Tabling

Christians at RGV will hand out flyers to students from 10 to 11 a.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Slackline Social

The **Slackline Club** will host a social to practice slackline from noon to 2 p.m. next to the Bronc Trail across from the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship on the Edinburg campus.

Fundraiser

The **Society of Automotive Engineers-RGV Baja Racing Team** will sell corn dogs, hot Cheetos with cheese and drinks to fundraise for its annual Baja competition from noon to 1 p.m. between the Science and Engineering building on the Edinburg campus.

Friday Holiday Havoc

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a **Holiday Havoc Celebration** from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Main Building’s Salon Cassia on the Brownsville campus to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “**The Polar Express**.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve and is about a young boy who boards a train traveling to the North Pole to learn about the spirit of Christmas. Pajamas are highly encouraged.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 12 and 18.

Nov. 12

7:16 a.m.: A construction worker reported that a piece of equipment left on the construction site had been moved

from its original location at the Institute of Neuroscience on the Harlingen campus. The case is under investigation.

11:40 p.m.: An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. An investigation revealed the driver had an active arrest warrant for assault (misdemeanor) out of the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office. The warrant was confirmed and a deputy arrived at the scene and took custody of the man without incident.

Nov. 14

7:01 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed via border cameras near Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area. The Border Patrol agent subsequently took custody of two Mexican nationals without incident.

Nov. 15

8:55 p.m.: A student reported that while barbecuing at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus, a small portion of the fire fell on the concrete slab, requiring him to use the fire extinguisher.

11:08 p.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed via border cameras near Lot B-1 on

the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area. The Border Patrol agent subsequently took custody of the five individuals without incident. Two individuals were from Guatemala, two from Mexico and one from Honduras.

Nov. 16

6:01 p.m.: A Texas Southmost College student living at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus was involved in a verbal disturbance with her father in the parking lot. An investigation revealed no physical altercation had occurred. The student’s father was issued a criminal trespass warning from the Casa Bella Apartments.

Nov. 17

8:31 a.m.: A faculty member reported being approached by an unknown woman in Lot B-3 on the Brownsville campus. The faculty member reported the woman asked him for a ride to the Casa Bella Apartments, which he refused to do. The woman became upset and walked away. The faculty member wanted the incident documented.

11:46 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed via U.S. border fence cameras located behind the Facilities building on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area. The Border Patrol agent subsequently took custody of two adults and their child from Honduras without incident.

5:03 p.m.: UTRGV Police

Communications received notification from the UT Health Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Clinic in Weslaco that a staff member had fainted. Emergency medical services transported the staff member to Knapp Medical Center for further evaluation.

Nov. 18

9:06 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed on cameras at the U.S. border fence located at Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area. U.S. Border Patrol agents subsequently took custody of five Mexican nationals without incident.

9:29 a.m.: A student reported a female student had slapped him on the left side of his head while at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. An officer contacted the female student, who reported she had mistaken the male for someone she knew. The female student was issued a citation for assault (unwanted contact), a Class C misdemeanor. The case will be referred to the Dean of Students office for administrative review.

7:37 p.m.: A student reported her ex-boyfriend, also identified as a student, has been showing up at locations on campus in Brownsville that she has visited. The woman reported she is not in fear of her safety but wanted the incident documented. The case will be referred to the Dean of Students office for administrative review.

--Compiled by Valeria Henderson

Happy Holidays, Vaqueros!

AT UTRGV TWO COVID-19 POSITIVES

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

UTRGV reported two additional COVID-19 cases between Nov. 5 and 11, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said among the two was one student and one staff member.

UTRGV updates the number of cases reported for campus individuals weekly through the Confirmed Cases Dashboard. The numbers on the website are provided by the university COVID-19 Response Team.

Arney said no UTRGV students were quarantined on campus the week of Nov. 5 to 11.

As previously reported by The Rider, UTRGV has provided 50 rooms in separate wings of the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus and in

the Village Apartments in Edinburg for quarantining students.

As of last Wednesday, UT Health RGV had administered 46,196 tests and 86,455 vaccine doses, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

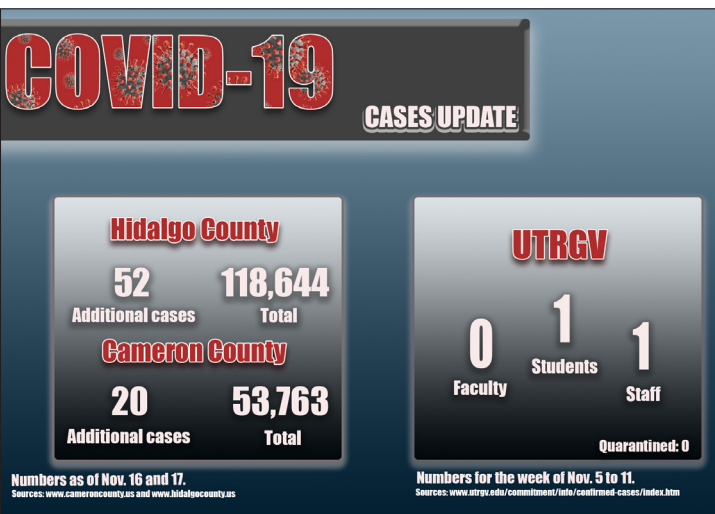
In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, COVID-19 continues to trend.

Hidalgo County reported an additional 52 confirmed cases last Wednesday, raising the county's total to 118,644, according to its website.

As of last Wednesday, the county reported one additional death, raising its death toll to 3,484. The individual was unvaccinated.

Last Tuesday, Cameron County Public Health reported an additional 20 COVID-19 cases, raising its total to 53,763.

Cameron County also reported three additional COVID-19-related deaths Tuesday, raising its death toll to 1,996. All three individuals were unvaccinated.



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

BETO

Continued from Page 1

that are taking place here on a national level.

In a report generated by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, O'Rourke said that "despite warnings in 2011, 2014 about major failures potentially within the grid, that our state legislature and our governor did nothing to prepare us for this previous winter storm in February."

"And despite the legislative session and the special sessions that followed, they've done nothing to prepare us for the next winter storm that's gonna come," he said.

Aside from the issues with the Texas power grid, the candidate also talked about the issues in the state that divide the population culturally, such as opinions on abortion, gun laws and gender identity.

O'Rourke said he wants to redirect the conversation to the more constructive issues, such as improving the education system, local infrastructure and creating new job opportunities, rather than focus on the destructive issues.

"I want to make sure that if I am elected governor that the people of Brownsville will have a partner so that they don't always have to

do it themselves and so they have someone who's equally invested in their success," he said.

The Democratic candidate also mentioned the disconnect between the issues faced in border towns and what is portrayed by the state's representation.

O'Rourke criticized Abbott's rhetoric on the condition of border towns and how he paints them as unsafe to the rest of the state, thus creating a sense of panic in Texas, which O'Rourke cites for the tragic Walmart shooting that resulted in 23 Hispanics dead in his hometown of El Paso.

"[Abbott] calls this an invasion when he says 'Texans must defend themselves,'" O'Rourke said. "In fact, he says, 'You must take matters into your own hands.' These are all words from Gov. Abbott. People listen and they do that."

He said Texas should be at the forefront with the federal government in rewriting "this country's outdated immigration laws ... because we've lived this and understand it better than anyone else."

Earlier in the week, O'Rourke's visited Laredo and McAllen.

The candidate said he cannot take any region for granted and will work for the votes he plans to acquire.

Collegiate high school opens in Harlingen



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School was formed from a tri-partnership among the city, Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District and UTRGV. It opened its doors to students Oct. 12 and held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 15. The facility allows students the opportunity to engage in the college experience and earn at least 42 college credits upon graduating.

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

UTRGV, in collaboration with the City of Harlingen and Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, is giving students the opportunity to engage in the college experience and earn at least 42 college credit hours upon graduating through UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School.

Students first walked on campus Oct. 12 and a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Nov. 15 at the facility.

It was formerly known as Early College High School, Harlingen's first specialty campus when it first opened in 2007 on Pecan Street, according to Michael Aldape, director of dual enrollment at UTRGV.

"To be an early college high school there is a state mandated blueprint that high schools have to follow in order to qualify and be designated as a true early college high school," Aldape said. "This new vision with the campus

is a little bit different from that, and, so, while it's no longer a designated early college high school, we're still offering students a very similar experience. So, with that opportunity and the change that we've made and the structure, we've been able to rethink what all of this looks like, and that was a good opportunity to change the name to something that fit a little bit more of what we're doing."

The facility was first announced Feb. 28, 2019.

"The City of Harlingen gifted

30.54 acres of vacant land to UTRGV for construction of the future campus, which will be located near the northeast corner of Camelot Drive and Hale Street," according to a UTRGV Newsroom article published Feb. 28, 2019.

UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School is a ninth-through-12th-grade campus and, beginning in the 11th grade, students start taking only UTRGV courses to satisfy their high school graduation requirements.

"So, while students are taking our courses to become core complete, they're also working towards earning their high school graduation requirements by the time that they've finished those two

courses articulated that will increase that number a little bit," he said. "So, at minimum, we're looking at 42 to 47 hours in addition to pathway courses. So, most will end up getting towards within that window."

Vela Garcia said the school is application based. Students do not have to live in Harlingen to attend, as it is an open-enrollment school district.

"So, we do open our applications to all of our schools Valleywide, and that works for the school as well," she said. "So, when students in eighth grade choose to begin their high school career at Collegiate High School, they can go online to our

HCISD.org website and fill out the applications when we open them in the spring."

Each class at UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School is capped at 100 students each, for a max student population of 400, which encourages a small learning community to support educational success, according to a news release sent by the district.

Students can still participate in extracurricular activities like comprehensive high schools, Vela Garcia said. In addition to being focused on achieving their college goals, students can also participate in the arts and athletics.

During the Nov. 15 ribbon-cutting ceremony, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the City of Harlingen and school district have been partners like no others.

"I've been to a lot of places and a lot of universities," Bailey said. "We've never

"When you come to UTRGV, we are fully committed to you graduating with minimal debt and with most success. ... We want you to graduate, we want you to stay here in the Valley. ... This is a great place to live. We couldn't do this, we couldn't provide this kind of education without partners."

**--Guy Bailey
UTRGV President**

years," Aldape said.

Brianna Vela Garcia, director of media and public relations for the school district, said UTRGV and the district each invested \$7 million into the construction of the new facility.

In addition to college credits, students can choose a college career pathway in computer science, engineering or education.

Aldape said each student's pathway and total number of hours they complete might look a little different from each other.

"And then we have other

See HCISD, Page 10

VAQUERO VOICE



SELF-CARE

On Nov. 16, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What is your go-to self-care method?" The results are shown below.

facebook



twitter



Instagram



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER



We all have limits to what we can handle. If you feel like you need a break, yeah, you definitely need to take one. You are the only one who truly knows what your limits are. Of course, make sure not to go overboard as well.

Choosing me



Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

Leading up to the last weeks of the semester, every college student

starts to feel the pressure of making deadlines, writing essays and taking final exams. Within all that craziness, we sort of forget to breathe and take time for ourselves. Many of us work two jobs on top of being a student and it can really tire us out, both physically and mentally.

I like to think of myself as someone who is mentally strong, but there comes a breaking point for all of us. Learning to accept that it is OK to talk about your feelings can be difficult for a lot of us. I worry too much about what other people think of me and it gets in

the way of my own success. Learning to be your own cheerleader is a long journey, and it all starts with you.

I have many friends who post on Facebook about learning to love themselves. I never fully understood it until I went through something where I had to choose between myself or

went by, I realized that it was taking up so much of my energy and time. I contemplated quitting for about two months before I actually decided to take the first step. It took me longer than I wanted since I was looking at it from an experience/looking-good-on-your-resume point of view. Yet, I did decide to quit when I realized that loving yourself took sacrifice.

I am really big on having a career you enjoy and thought my second job was going to open doors for me. Instead, it made me learn more about myself. I have slowly but surely learned how to be patient with myself and the decisions I make. More often than not, I like to rush things, worry too much about what is next and overthink way too much.

Being a student is already a full-time job, and I would rather make sacrifices right now that will soon lead to what my true calling is.

“Being a student is already a full-time job, and I would rather make sacrifices right now that will soon lead to what my true calling is.”

to continue to strain my mental health.

Throughout the process of getting hired for my second job, I never doubted that I would be able to handle work, school and my personal life. I was already doing it with one job, why not two? But as months

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

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.

LUPE Votes busca candidatos para el Distrito 15 del Congreso

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La Unión del Pueblo Entero está buscando un candidato progresista para representar el Distrito 15 del Congreso, que está siendo desocupado por el Representante de los Estados Unidos, Vicente González (D-Texas).

Hace unas semanas La Unión del Pueblo Entero anunció el lanzamiento de LUPE Votes 501(c)4 en donde la organización podrá respaldar a candidatos políticos.

El Distrito 15 del Congreso de Texas está ubicado en la parte sur del estado. Los condados de Guadalupe, Wilson, Karnes, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Brooks y una parte del condado de Hidalgo que incluye las ciudades de McAllen, Edinburg, Mercedes, McCook, North Weslaco, North Donna, North Alamo, Hargill, Hidalgo y Elsa conforman el distrito.

Dani Marrero Hi, directora de comunicaciones de LUPE Votes, explicó la misión de LUPE Votes.

“La organización Lupe Votes es la organización hermana de LUPE”, dijo Marrero. “Entonces, ya sabes, trabajamos juntos, pero son organizaciones separadas”.

Marrero dijo que la misión de LUPE Votes es proteger a la clase trabajadora del sur de Texas y asegurarse de que los mejores internos de la clase trabajadora del sur de Texas estén representados a nivel local, estatal y del Congreso.

“501(c)4 LUPE Votes es diferente al 501(c)3 La Unión del Pueblo Entero, acabamos de lanzar este 501(c)4 LUPE Votes el 1 de noviembre”, dijo Jacqueline Arias, organizadora de compromiso cívico de La Unión del Pueblo Entero. “Lo lanzamos con una campaña en el pueblo, donde estamos lanzando una búsqueda de nominación para un líder en nuestra comunidad para postularse para el Congreso, específicamente el Distrito 15 del Congreso”.

Arias explicó que la razón por la que crearon LUPE Votes fue porque el actual congresista del Distrito 15, González, decidió cambiar de distrito al Distrito 34.

“Fue un cambio de último minuto”, dijo Arias. “Decidimos apresurarnos urgentemente y lanzar 501(c)4 con esta campaña para encontrar un candidato porque el distrito ahora es un distrito republicano de más tres”.

Marrero explicó el cambio repentino al tener que crear LUPE Votes.

“La razón por la que lanzamos LUPE Votes es debido a las diferentes regulaciones sobre lo que LUPE puede hacer como organización”, dijo



Fatima Gamez Lopez/FOTOS RIDER

Jacqueline Arias, organizadora de compromiso cívico de La Unión del Pueblo Entero, explica la campaña *We The Pueblo* el 17 de noviembre en el campus de Edinburg. El evento fue organizado por La Asociación de Ciencias Políticas con el propósito de educar a los estudiantes y a la comunidad en cómo nominar a alguien como candidato para el Distrito 15 del Congreso y los puntos que tienen que tener en cuenta al hacerlo. También se muestra Nathaniel Mata, coordinador de prensa de LUPE Votes.

Marrero. “Podemos hacer *“Get Out The Vote”*, y podemos educar a los votantes, pero no podemos respaldar a los candidatos, así que a través de LUPE Votes lo podemos hacer”.

Marrero dijo que La Unión del Pueblo Entero tiene un largo historial de estar con la comunidad y trabajar con personas de bajos ingresos del sur de Texas y el crear LUPE Votes es una continuación de eso, como un legado sólido que tiene la organización.

Arias explicó algunos puntos en el que La Unión del Pueblo Entero se enfoca para crear un cambio en la comunidad.

“Entonces, lo más importante es nuestra plataforma de energía Pueblo”, dijo Arias. “Esta plataforma de energía se enfoca en seguro médico del estado para todos, un salario mínimo de 15 dólares [por hora], una universidad pública gratuita, una escuela de oficios, trabajos climáticos para nuestra región y la reforma migratoria que es un camino hacia la ciudadanía para los 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados en este país”.

Así que esos son los temas de los cinco pilares que un nominado tiene que tener, ese es, básicamente,

nuestro criterio para esta búsqueda de nominaciones y creemos firmemente que estas políticas progresistas son la forma de ganar este distrito, dijo Arias.

Marrero explicó cómo la comunidad puede hacer sus nominaciones.

“Entonces, la forma en que lo hemos estado haciendo es que la gente puede visitar nuestro sitio web, *WeThePueblo.org* o *LupeVotes.org*”, dijo Marrero. “Pueden nominar a cualquier persona en su vida que crea que está lista para representar a la clase trabajadora del sur de Texas”.

Hay ciertos requisitos que por ley tienen que tener, dijo Marrero. Los candidatos nominados tienen que tener al menos 25 años y tienen que ser ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

Marrero explicó que la fecha límite fue el 19 de noviembre para nominar a alguien para representar el Distrito 15.

“Después de eso, todavía tendremos un formulario en nuestro sitio web donde las personas pueden nominar líderes y tal vez, ya sabes, hay alguien que podría postularse para alcalde algún día o comisionado del condado”, dijo Marrero. “Por lo tanto, la gente puede continuar visitando nuestro sitio web para nominar a otras personas que creen que deberían postularse para, ya sabes, cualquier puesto en el cargo”.

Arias explicó lo que el postulamiento de González al Distrito 34 significó para La Unión del Pueblo Entero y la comunidad.

“Creemos firmemente que Vicente González abandonó nuestro distrito”, dijo Arias. “Entendemos que los republicanos manipularon y redistribuyeron Texas 15, creemos que solo necesitaba tener posiciones políticas más sólidas como seguro médico del estado para todos y un salario mínimo de 15 dólares”.

Arias dijo que ahora depende de La Unión del Pueblo Entero y la comunidad para luchar por seguro médico del estado para todos y un salario mínimo de 15 dólares ya que ni un solo líder electo en el sur de Texas lo ha hecho.

“Creo que muchos de los tejanos del sur se sienten realmente cansados de

eso y necesitan una verdadera persona de clase trabajadora que comprenda y luche por ellos”, dijo Arias. “No una persona del 1% superior del Valle [del Río Grande] que no tenga posiciones políticas sólidas, como Vicente González”.

Marrero explicó que fue muy decepcionante ver a un funcionario electo mudarse de distrito por el simple hecho que se volvió demasiado complicado para él.

“Él dice que no tuvo otra opción debido a la forma en que sucedió la redistribución de distritos y que su vecindario se vio afectado pero no le creemos”, dijo Marrero. “Creemos que Vicente González podría haber hecho más para quedarse en el distrito y creemos que definitivamente jugó un papel en su vecindario al ser incluido en el nuevo mapa”.

The Rider trató de contactar a González para hablar sobre el tema pero la persona que contestó la llamada en su oficina en Washington, D.C., el 15 de noviembre dijo que el congresista no podía hablar sobre eso.

González dijo que LUPE nunca ha confiado en ningún político para hacer un cambio en la comunidad. Por eso, cuando González se fue, la organización decidió hacerse cargo del asunto.

“Estamos haciendo esto porque ha habido un movimiento progresista durante los últimos cuatro años en el Valle del Río Grande en el sur de Texas,” dijo Arias. “Necesitamos líderes para servir cambios de política progresistas y audaces”.

Arias dijo que la comunidad está viendo muchos cambios.

“¿Pero a dónde va realmente la riqueza?” dijo Arias. “No va a la gente de clase trabajadora en el sur de Texas, nuestros salarios siguen siendo el salario mínimo de 7.25 dólares. Si todavía no tenemos seguro médico para todos y todavía no tenemos trabajos bien pagados aquí, entonces creo que esto es parte de un movimiento en crecimiento, no solo en el sur de Texas, sino en todo el país que exige salarios más altos, exige atención médica y mejores empleos”.



Dani Marrero Hi, directora de comunicaciones de LUPE Votes, dice que aunque la fecha límite para nominar a alguien para representar el Distrito 15 pase aún estará el formulario en el sitio web donde las personas pueden nominar líderes, alcaldes, comisionados del condado y más.

CHANGES

Continued from Page 1

dents for Fall 2021, according to Susan Brown, assistant vice president for Strategic Analysis and Institutional Reporting. Its Fiscal Year 2022 budget totals \$2,274,611, compared to \$2,058,409 for FY 2021, according to information provided by Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for Marketing and Communications.

The School of Music has 418 reportable students for Fall 2021, according to Brown. Its Fiscal Year 2022 budget is \$4,151,918, compared to \$3,718,740 for FY 2021, according to Gonzales.

"It's not even a secret in the College of Fine Arts that music gets the most money," Sandoval said. "I'm glad they're doing very well, but when they say it's the numbers and they're saying all these things, I don't see the equality."

She said she brought up the enrollment and budget numbers to Steven Block, the dean of the College of Fine Arts, in a town hall that took place before the referendum voting.

"I don't think he fully knew how to respond to me because of how it was," Sandoval said. "But, I also believe he was under a lot of stress at the time."

In an interview with *The Rider* on Nov. 17, Block said the College of Fine Arts budget is divided among five departments: the School of Art and Design, the School of Music, the Department of Theatre, the Department of Dance and the

Department of Creative Writing.

"If you want to talk in general about how they're divided, they're divided according to the size and the nature of the faculty," he said.

Because music is a collaborative art form, a greater number of faculty members are required, according to Block.

"You can't have a band without a trumpet professor," he said. "Because of the nature of music as a collaborative art, all the parts have to be there in order for the student to get a proper education in any music program. It doesn't matter what university, you're going to have a greater number of faculty to hire."

Block elaborated on the difference between enrollment numbers and student credit hours.

While the School of Music has fewer enrolled majors than the School of Art, there are more credit hours being taken in music by the entire university than credit hours taken in art, he said.

As for student concerns regarding the art facilities, Block and Jana Arney, UTRGV's executive vice president and provost, toured Rusteberg Hall, which is owned by Texas Southmost College.

"[Texas Southmost College is] not interested in selling the building," Block said. "We have to lease it. ... But, what you, basically, have is a landlord-tenant kind of situation."

Recently, UTRGV and TSC began working together to address issues in

Rusteberg Hall, according to Abraham Hernandez, UTRGV's executive director for campus facilities operations.

"TSC, recently, probably within the last year or so, has new administration leading the facilities department," Hernandez said. "We've been working with TSC on ongoing issues for this facility."

The university communicates any issues raised to TSC, and TSC has been addressing them.

"If you look at the responsibilities, we are responsible for general maintenance," he said. "TSC is responsible for major capital replacement."

TSC and UTRGV have addressed, or are addressing, issues with the roof, air conditioning, water leaks and rodents in Rusteberg Hall, Hernandez said.

"We contact them on a weekly basis depending on the kind of calls that we get," he said. "Our responsibility is to keep on TSC, to make sure they address our concerns. ... We've seen favorable results in that they are addressing the items that we are bringing to them."

Hernandez said TSC is working with contractors to address roof issues and a pest control company to address the rodent issues.

"At this point, I am pleased with the changes that I've seen in their response," he said. "So, we're going to continue working with them, because we do have to have a working relationship since it is their building that we're occupying."

The *Rider* called TSC officials Marce-

la Juarez, coordinator of Events and Leasing, and Edgar Chrnko Salas, director of Marketing & Community Relations. Juarez did not answer. Chrnko said he would set up an interview with Juarez. As of press time Nov. 22, Chrnko had not called back.

UTRGV has been looking into ways to obtain a new building, according to Block, but one difficulty is that an art facility requires a lot of space.

"We're talking about 28,000 to 30,000 square feet at any medium-sized art building," he said. "We've talked about ... putting a portion of a building [by the new science buildings], but, again, a portion of a building is not going to get you 20,000 square feet. So, those are some of the problems."

Block said it is an ongoing concern and that the university has been trying to come to terms with getting a new building.

"They're coming closer," he said. "But, I hesitate to say it is going to be a success, because it's a difficult situation."

Change occurs slowly in universities, Block said, and he believes that his retirement and the hiring of a new dean will help the process.

"I think everyone understands that this can't continue," he said. "Change is coming. Whether it's coming by the end of the year, whether it's coming in a year and a half. Obviously, if we build a new building, that's going to be longer. I can't say. But I'm hopeful."

SGA

Continued from Page 1

fondling, dating violence, an increase in burglary, motor vehicle theft and an 83% increase in stalking incidents

--the City of Edinburg has a crime rate that is statistically higher than 89% of the Texas cities and towns of all sizes according to the FBI crime data found in

Neighborhood Scout

--one in five female undergraduates have experienced some sort of sexual assault while in college

The resolution will address a lot of the safety concerns that students have at UTRGV, Senator-at-Large Kimberly Sandoval said.

In other business, the senate conducted a first reading of Legislative Bylaws Amendment Bill 01, which

proposes reducing the number of hours allotted to an SGA member in notifying the sergeant-at-arms of a planned absence from 24 to 12. The amendment cites a decline in membership due to senators not providing a notification of absence within the allotted 24 hours.

The senate sent the amendment to the Internal Affairs standing

committee for review.

Under unfinished business and new business, the senate approved the following appointments:

--biological sciences sophomore Kimberly Moran, as senator-at-large for Edinburg
--nursing junior Mariana Estevan, as sergeant-at-arms

The next SGA meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Class of Fall 2021

Congrats, Grads!

Hector Tamez
KVAQ-TV
Station Manager

Valeria Henderson
The Rider
Reporter

Monica Llanas
Student Media
Marketing Specialist

Priscylla Guzman
Pulse Magazine
Photographer

Karla Valenzuela
KVAQ-TV
Reporter

UTRGV
STUDENT MEDIA
wishes you
Good Luck!

Corrección: Debido a un error de informe, el artículo titulado "UTRGV se une para ayudar a las familias que más lo necesitan," que fue publicado en la edición de The Rider del 15 de noviembre, incorrectamente atribuye algunas citas a April Muñoz, coordinadora de Organizaciones Estudiantiles. La fuente actual es Nadia Valdez, asistente estudiantil para el departamento de los derechos y responsabilidades de los estudiantes y gerente de la despensa de alimentos en UTRGV. En el artículo debajo, el periódico corrigió la atribución.

UTRGV se une para ayudar a las familias que más lo necesitan



Fatima Gamez Lopez/FOTO RIDER

Temporada de Dar es un evento que se organiza cada año para crear conciencia en la comunidad de UTRGV. El propósito de este evento es recolectar comida enlatada y alimentos no perecederos para ayudar a estudiantes y a la comunidad del Valle del Río Grande a no pasar hambre durante estos tiempos difíciles.

Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Centro para la Participación Estudiantil se une en colaboración con la Despensa de Comida para Estudiantes para organizar el evento anual, Temporada de Dar, para ayudar a familias que más lo necesitan.

La comunidad de UTRGV puede hacer donaciones desde hoy hasta el viernes en los campus de Edinburg y Brownsville con el propósito de educar a los estudiantes sobre los problemas que enfrentan los menos afortunados en la nación y ofrecerá oportunidades de servicio comunitario a estudiantes.

"Temporada de Dar es un evento que organizamos todos los años, este será nuestro quinto año en el que organizamos este evento", dijo Raul Leal, coordinador de programas de liderazgo y cambio social. "Por supuesto, no pudimos ser anfitriones el año pasado debido a que trabajamos desde casa por la pandemia".

El objetivo del programa es realmente crear conciencia sobre los diferentes problemas que enfrentan no solo nuestros estudiantes, sino también nuestra comunidad en general, dijo Leal.

"Entonces, debido a que tenemos muchas familias que experimentan hambre a diario queremos compartir que UTRGV es consciente de los problemas que enfrenta nuestra comunidad", dijo Leal. "Nos estamos recuperando de cualquier manera que podamos, ya sabes, con nuestro departamento, realmente queremos vivir la misión de levantarnos mientras subimos".

Nadia Valdez, asistente estudiantil para el departamento de los derechos y responsabilidades y gerente de la despensa de alimentos en UTRGV, explicó cómo es que la participación estudiantil colaborará con la Despensa

de Comida para Estudiantes.

"Somos [la Despensa de Comida para Estudiantes] los que vamos a recibir la donación", dijo Valdez. "[El Centro para la Participación Estudiantil] son los que animan a todos los estudiantes y organizaciones a hacer sus propias cajas de recolección, y luego toda la comida que se recoja llegará a nuestra despensa".

Valdez explicó que cada organización que participe en la competencia tratará de recolectar lo más que pueda y el que obtenga la mayor cantidad obtendrá un premio.

"Los premios para la organización estudiantil que más recaude ganará una social organizada por nuestra oficina", dijo Leal. "Básicamente, proporcionaremos comida para el social, por supuesto, acomodándonos al reglamento del COVID de la universidad".

Leal dijo que se brindarán los recursos para el social de la organización ganadora de la recolección de alimento enlatado, el concurso de decoración de cajas también ganará una social, la única diferencia sería la cantidad del premio.

"El grupo ganador de la decoración de cajas recibirá un social de 150 dólares, y el de la comida enlatada recibirá un social de 350 dólares", dijo Leal. "Nosotros trabajaremos con la organización ganadora para determinar qué tipo de social quieren, qué tipo de comida o artículos y nosotros pagaremos por esa cantidad".

El propósito del evento es recolectar artículos y ayudar a nuestras comunidades, dijo Leal.

"Las organizaciones estudiantiles son responsables de recolectar alimentos enlatados promoviendo el intento de animar a la gente a donar", dijo Leal. "Todos los artículos se recogerán al final de la semana y nos reunimos a inspeccionar las latas de comida y nos

aseguramos de que todavía se puedan usar y que no haya nada caducado".

Leal explicó que los alimentos que sean donados serán distribuidos a los estudiantes de los campus y a las familias alrededor del Valle del Río Grande.

"Noviembre es realmente importante en lo que respecta a las festividades y el Día de Acción de Gracias", dijo Leal. "Muchos estudiantes tienen días libres y entonces hay muchas oportunidades para ayudar a aquellas familias que lo necesitan y que necesitan el apoyo de nuestra comunidad."

Leal explicó que las organizaciones pueden participar en este evento.

"Cualquiera puede participar donando alimentos enlatados a nuestras organizaciones en cualquiera de los contenedores alrededor de los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg", dijo Leal. "En este momento, todas nuestras organizaciones que participen deben colocar su caja en su edificio a más tardar el lunes".

Leal dijo que las inscripciones para el concurso ya están cerradas ya que el viernes pasado comenzó la competencia de la decoración de cajas, sin embargo las organizaciones que aún quieran participar pueden enviar un correo electrónico a volunteer@utrgv.edu.

Valdez explicó los tipos de comida que pueden participar en la competencia de alimentos enlatados.

"Tenemos un volante con todos los artículos que tienen una gran demanda", dijo Valdez. "Son principalmente alimentos enlatados, como: verduras, sopa, frijoles, frutas, salsa de tomate, atún, todo lo que está enlatado o alimentos secos que pueden venir en cajas o bolsas, como: barras de granola, cacahuates, pretzels, papas fritas o avena. Incluso productos de higiene, esos también serían geniales."

Valdez explicó que los estudiantes pueden encontrar los volantes en el sitio web de la despensa de comida para estudiantes en UTRGV

Leal explicó de lo que el concurso de decoración de cajas del viernes pasado trató.

"A cada organización se le dio una caja y la van a decorar para llamar la atención de los estudiantes para que pasen por ahí y vean sobre la recolección de alimentos enlatados", dijo Leal. "Nosotros les proporcionaremos suministros y ellos podrán decorarlo".

Leal dijo que las organizaciones estudiantiles tuvieron hasta el pasado viernes para decorar las cajas y la caja más creativa ganará la competencia.

Él explicó que después del concurso se necesitarán voluntarios que quieran ayudar a organizar los artículos recaudados.

"Necesitaremos muchos voluntarios el sábado después de que concluya la colecta de alimentos enlatados", dijo Leal. "Lo que los estudiantes tendrían que hacer es ayudarnos a ver cada artículo que se donó".

Leal explicó que El Centro para la Participación Estudiantil se asegurará de que los artículos no estén vencidos y puedan almacenarse en la despensa de alimentos.

"La fecha para esto sería el 20 de noviembre", dijo Leal. "Los estudiantes se inscribirán en V Link. El formulario ya está disponible y pueden inscribirse. En ellos nos dejarán saber en donde estarán disponibles para ser voluntarios".

Leal dijo que este evento se llevará a cabo a las 8 de la mañana hasta la hora de almuerzo en donde se les proporcionará comida a los estudiantes voluntarios.

"Cualquier estudiante puede ser voluntario, independientemente si su organización participó en la campaña de alimentos enlatados", dijo Leal. "Esperamos que el evento, Temporada de Dar, ayude a iluminar la necesidad de nuestra comunidad y a garantizar que como estudiantes debemos recordar que el servicio a los demás siempre debe ser su prioridad".

¿Qué te gustaría ver en **THE RIDER** ?
LLÁMANOS AL
882-5143 O AL 665-5085

School of Music auditions continue

UTRGV School of Music

"No. 1 in the country among national public universities for lowest student debt."
-U.S. News & World Report-

Auditions

UTRGV School of Music auditions for admission are now accepted via live audition or via video audition.

UTRGV.EDU/MUSIC

Kaitlyn Polvado
A&E EDITOR

Auditions for the School of Music continue for the Spring 2022 semester either live or pre-recorded and submitted through a Google form that can be accessed on its website until the Wednesday deadline.

In order to apply and audition for the School of Music, students must first apply to UTRGV, then apply through the Google form provided on its website, where students can insert their preferred method of auditioning.

If the student chooses to audition in person, a faculty member will contact them either through phone or email, and if the student chooses to audition via a pre-recorded submission, a link to an unlisted YouTube video containing the audition

will be linked onto the form.

"Auditions take place during the spring semester and can also be scheduled at any time during the year by contacting the School of Music and the appropriate applied music faculty member," according to SOUND magazine, the School of Music's newly released digital magazine.

Each major has specific requirements for its auditions. Specifics on what students must come prepared with for their respective auditions can be found on the School of Music website.

Mark Ramirez, associate director of the School of Music and professor of percussion, said the school hopes to hone in a sense of community and have people experience a new world.

"[The school] is opening its doors to the community so they

can come and get to know us," Ramirez said. "Our goal is to be inclusive and not exclusive."

For those interested in applying for the Fall 2022 semester, the deadline is Aug. 1. However, this is the deadline for admission without music scholarship consideration. If the student wants to apply in time for music scholarship consideration, the deadline is March 11. To be considered for the scholarship, students must be enrolled full-time (12 hours).

The School of Music currently offers around 20 endowment scholarships that are offered to a variety of the majors at the school.

For more information on auditions for the UTRGV School of Music, visit its website www.utrgv.edu/music or visit the School of Music Facebook page.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Aries-This semester has challenged you in ways you did not expect, but you found ways to make it special nonetheless. You are on the right track and will get to where you want to be soon enough. Remember to not be so hard on yourself.

Taurus-The end of the semester means you are one step closer to Christmas, your favorite time of year because you appreciate gifts and being spoiled by the ones you love. Just trek through the next few weeks and you will get your time to bask in the finer things. Someone who cares for you has the perfect gift waiting under the tree for you.

Gemini-Being educated is something you hold in high regard, especially for yourself. With Gemini's determination to learn, it is not unlikely that many of you will be graduating this December. Know that you will find purpose outside of your student role after you leave the Vaquero halls. A seeker of knowledge like you will always be a student of life no matter your job title.

Cancer-The winter months make you crave that feeling of safety with your family from when you were a child. Take this holiday break to share more with your loved ones. Good or bad, you know this conversation will make you feel better and closer to them.

Leo-You associate the holidays with your childhood memories because you miss the innocence you had back then. Much like "The Catcher in the Rye,"

you feel that innocence should be preserved at all costs and will do whatever it takes to make sure it is not stolen from the children in your life, whether it be a little brother, sister, son, daughter, niece or nephew. The kid in you always tries to make the holiday season special for the little ones in your life. Know that your kindred spirit is appreciated.

Virgo-As a Virgo, you are ruled by the mind, meaning that you appreciate knowledge and are attracted to intellect. As the semester comes to a close, the academic in you is always a bit disappointed, but know that the discussions and witty banter you crave can be fed outside the world of academia as well. Pay closer attention to the ones in your life who challenge you to think differently. They may be just what you need.

Libra-Being the people person you are, you have to be social during the holiday season. While you may feel that you have to *cumplir* with everyone, remember that the people closest to you always take a backstage seat to your show. This holiday season, make them your priority and you might find that you will feel more loved than you thought you could be.

Scorpio-You love the mystery of not knowing what is waiting around the next corner. With the end of another chapter in your life closing, you wait in anticipation to see what life has in store for you. While others may view this as a cool and mysterious characteristic of yours, you are secretly afraid of the wonder. Know that you hold the pen to write your next chapter. The freedom is scary but also excites the adrenaline junky in you.

Sagittarius-You cannot be tamed by anyone, Sagittarius. You are a wanderer and love to see and experience new places. This holiday break is the perfect time for you to take that trip you have been longing to take. Get yourself out there and live life the way you have always wanted to, like a bird.

Capricorn-You have big goals and are always pushing the limit to reach them. Know that you do not have to be successful by any standards but your own. The holiday season often makes you feel as though you have to measure yourself up to the others at the dinner table. There are always going to be people who do not get it, but know that the ones who matter are proud of you.

Aquarius-With the semester ending, you finally have the space to roam the way you would like to. No schedule, no assignments, just vibes. You are mesmerized by the idea of your future and often need a lot of time to yourself to feel liberated. With the holidays coming up, some people in your life might want you to stick around. This feeling often makes you feel suffocated like a butterfly being trapped in a jar. Try to be better about expressing your feelings when it comes to issues like this.

Pisces-The end of the semester for you feels like a giant weight lifted off your shoulders. You will finally be able to rest the way you need to. Use this holiday break to recover from the semester and recharge that social battery. This is the perfect time to focus on self-care and look within to present your best self.

Daily Musings by Ariael Ortiz

When you pass a difficult class But you barely pass your other classes.

¡Soy intelectual, muy inteligente!
¡Soy intelectual, muy inteligente!
¡Soy intelectual, muy inteligente!

¡Ay, que bonita soy!
¡Soy intelectual, muy inteligente!

Oriz 11/29/21

SUDOKU

Last week's puzzle answer key:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | 1 | | | 8 | | 2 |
| | | 8 | 6 | | 7 | 1 | | 9 |
| | 9 | | | | 4 | | 2 | |
| | | 2 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 8 | | | 6 |
| | | | 7 | | | | 3 | 8 |
| | 7 | | | | 2 | | | |
| | | 6 | | 3 | | | | |

DIFFERENT COURT, SAME RESULT



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

Graduate forward Taylor Muff attempts a layup Nov. 18 during practice in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Omar E. Zapata THE RIDER

After playing four years of collegiate volleyball, UTRGV graduate forward Taylor Muff is now on the basketball court, where her past experience is paving the way for her to be an impact player this season.

From 2017 to 2020, Muff played volleyball at the University of Northern Colorado, which saw her finish with 1,118 kills, 1,043 digs and 113 aces in 107 career matches. She was named to the All-Big Sky First Team in her junior and senior seasons while helping Northern Colorado to a 2019 Big Sky Championship.

Muff said she had an amazing experience at UNC and said the all-around culture was the best aspect of it.

"That's something I'll never forget, [winning the Big Sky Championship]," she said. "One of my biggest accomplishments personally, but it made it so worth it because of the people I was with. Going in every day, every practice, every weight session, every extra rep with the people I was around, that's what made winning so much fun."

Sophomore guard Sara Bershers told The Rider she heard Muff was "outrageously good" during her time at UNC.

"You can even see how it translates on the basketball court and her athleticism is through the roof," Bershers said.

The guard said, at first she did not know how Muff's volleyball skills would transfer over to basketball.

"Because, usually, in high school, it doesn't translate very well, but Taylor is an exception for sure," Bershers said.

Before her collegiate career, Muff was a multi-sport

athlete at Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, Kansas. She lettered all four years in volleyball, basketball and track and field.

"I'm so happy that I committed to playing three sports," Muff said. "I think that's kind of what allowed me to play volleyball and then play basketball afterwards. ... It did help me develop as a player and just as a person. You get to meet so many people and the mental game behind each sport is so different. So, you're getting a lot of different perspectives."

"I think she makes everybody on our team and our coaches better every day. She's such a competitive person. Her work ethic is as good as anybody I've ever had in 28 years. So, I don't care if she's playing basketball, volleyball, track, tiddlywinks, it doesn't matter. She's gonna win."

**--Lane Lord
Women's Basketball head coach**

Asked how her previous volleyball and high school sports experience helped her transition back to basketball, Muff replied, "Training for volleyball is a lot of athletic movements. A lot of change of direction while jumping. So, a lot of it really does correlate with basketball. Basketball is definitely a lot more conditioning. So, that was kind of where I had to pick up the slack the most. And definitely, basketball's a lot faster pace of the game. So, it's more of a mental shift than I would say physical."

Asked what made her pursue a graduate degree in kinesiology and play here, she replied, a big part was UTRGV Women's Basketball head coach Lane Lord.

Lord spent 11 years as the women's basketball

head coach at Pittsburg State University in Muff's hometown before getting hired at UTRGV in 2018.

Lord and Muff have a close relationship as Lord's daughter is friends with Muff and Muff's father, Kevin Muff, was Pitt State's men's basketball head coach from 2011 to 2017.

"Well, I've been recruiting her since she was in seventh grade," Lord said. "[I] got to watch Taylor compete for a long, long time. I've been pretty much talking to her about doing this because her sister played for me as well after volleyball at Kansas State. So, at first, I didn't think she was gonna do it. But then, every time I talked to her, I was like, 'You're coming, right? You're coming?' and, yeah, she made the commitment to come. So, I was ecstatic."

He said besides her being a great athlete, the best thing about Muff is her competitive spirit.

"I think she makes everybody on our team and our coaches better every day," Lord said. "She's such a competitive person. Her work ethic is as good as anybody I've ever had in 28 years. So, I don't care if she's playing basketball, volleyball, track, tiddlywinks, it doesn't matter. She's gonna win."

Trying to build a winning culture for the basketball team, he said Muff will be a big part of helping the team reach it.

Sophomore guard Jena' Williams told The Rider that from the first practice, Muff was an instant leader and respected by the team.

"From day one, she's been, you know, always going hard," Williams said. "Always leading in conditioning or in the weight room. So, it was

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 10

SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SOUTH TEXAS SHOWDOWN

7 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI (HOME)

6 P.M. FRIDAY VS. NO. 8 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN (AWAY)



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

7 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS (AWAY)



WE ARE



STUDENT MEDIA



SCAN ME



HCISD
Continued from Page 3

had better partners. So, thank you to the school district ... for all your leadership. You've really done a terrific

BASKETBALL
Continued from Page 9

just easy for everyone to turn and follow her."

She said Muff's leadership has made it easier for everyone.

"I've never really had someone above me that I can look up to as a leader," Williams said. "I've always had to lead. She's been so big for me. Like she's helped me learn so much as a leader and as a person. She brings competitiveness, day to day, like, every day. She's the hardest worker out there. And it just makes us all have to rise to her level."

Muff said Williams is one of her biggest inspirations at the moment and helped a lot when she was transitioning to basketball and UTRGV.

"She's probably one of the most mentally, like, locked-in players I've ever played with," Muff said. "But, she understands the game so well. She has such a passion for basketball that I can really feed off of."

In an interview with Pittsburg, Kansas, TV station KOAM, Muff said she was nervous since the last time she played a legitimate basketball game was senior year of high school.

Asked if she still feels nervous, three games into the season, Muff replied, "No, nerves are gone. For sure. But, I think if I would not have had experience in college before this, then yes."

With the women's basketball team three games into the season, Muff is averaging 11.7 points, eight rebounds and 1.7 steals per game.

job. You know, this is a great facility for Harlingen. It's great for the Rio Grande Valley. There's nothing like this in the state of Texas. There's nothing like this in the UT System."

He said this facility is to help

students be successful.

"Remember you're going to graduate with at least two years of college credits at no expense to you," Bailey said. "When you come to UTRGV we are fully committed to you graduating with

minimal debt and with most success. ... We want you to graduate, we want you to stay here in the Valley. ... This is a great place to live. We couldn't do this, we couldn't provide this kind of education without partners."

In her first collegiate game against No. 21-ranked University of South Florida on Nov. 9, Muff posted a career high 15 points, nine rebounds and made three out of five three-pointers.

"That just shows you that against a top 20, 21 team in the country that she can compete with anybody," Lord said.

Playing Nov. 16 against UNC, where she finished with eight points, nine rebounds and three steals, Muff said it was really fulfilling to see how many people are still behind her.

"I had a whole, like, little fan section in the gym," Muff said. "That wasn't even my gym anymore. But, it was cool. Just to see, like, that I did get to leave an impact, even if it was a small one, on some people there."

Muff said her expectations for the team are to win a Western Athletic Conference Championship and to maybe make some noise in the NCAA tournament.

"Our process is, kind of, win one game at a time, one possession at a time and one practice at a time," she said. "So that's kind of where our minds are at right now."

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE RIDER? CALL US AT 882-5143 OR 665-5085

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

THE RIDER

**BROWNSVILLE: (956)882-5143
EDINBURG: (956) 665-5085**

UTRGVRIDER@UTRGV.EDU

WE ARE HIRING

UTRGV Student Media is accepting applications for the following positions:

THE RIDER NEWSPAPER

- Newspaper Photographer (Edinburg)
- Newspaper Reporter (Edinburg and Brownsville)



VAQUERO RADIO

- Radio Reporter
- Radio Sports Reporter



KVAQ-TV

- TV Station Manager
- TV Reporter

PULSE MAGAZINE

- Magazine Section Editor



- Advertising Manager
- Marketing Specialist (Brownsville)



You can find the application on Handshake

Deadline to apply is 3 p.m. Dec. 3

For more information, call 882-5143 or 665-5085 or email studentmedia@utrgv.edu



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley does not discriminate based on gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation.



Welcome to Chat Time Mobile™

◆ A New ◆ Exciting ◆ Super Low Cost ◆
Mobile Experience

One and Done Mobile Plan Features

- A One-Time Payment of **\$250**
- It's Like Paying **\$10/Month** per Phone!
- **24 Months of Unlimited Talk ◆ Text ◆ Data**
- **NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS!**
- **NO CONTRACTS!**
- **NO ID OR CREDIT CHECK REQUIRED!**
- Coverage includes ◆ US ◆ Canada ◆ Mexico.
- **Chat Time Mobile** works with all **UNLOCKED** Android and iOS Phones.
- **Chat Time Mobile** runs on the T-Mobile Network.



For Information,
Please
Text or Call
Dr. Mark Harrison
956-212-4388
chattimemobile.com



THE SQUARE BY ANDIA FERIZAJ

Sanya pulled her arms through the sleeves of her blue jacket, setting it firmly across her shoulders. She sank comfortably and securely into the seventy-three percent polyester piece of cloth. She looked out of the doorway at the house across the square ahead. Smoke from a thousand, what felt like a thousand, campfires billowed into clouds that obscured the stars. People were laughing, talking, moving in the square outside. The noise climbed into her ears and crawled down her throat, filling her up until she could barely breathe. Sanya gripped the door frame and took deep breaths. She was breathing... she was breathing, she just felt like she couldn't breathe. There was a difference.

Sanya stepped out and locked the door behind her. She could feel worry lines forming, and she pushed on her brow to flatten them out. She paused, looking at the crowd, but stepped in a moment later. The people flowed around her, and she hurried along, not knowing whether she should walk quickly or slowly. Her feet hit the polished rocks beneath her. She could feel the smooth curves and sharp edges in them through her shoes. A sign in the city had said that they'd been there for centuries. People had walked and ran and slipped over these rocks a hundred thousand times.

Sanya continued walking down the

square. The smoke and the noise seemed to put her in a haze. She kept walking, not knowing if she should or even could stop. It seemed impossible to do anything but keep going on in the same direction. She wasn't breathing anymore. Well, she knew she was breathing because she was still walking and that meant she was alive, and she wouldn't be alive if she'd stop breathing, but Sanya had stopped noticing her breathing. It seemed far away, like the body was breathing and Sanya was just inside it being carried by some contraption of flesh and muscle. She clenched her fists, reminding herself that this was her body, that she was in it, and she was in the square surrounded by all these people.

If possible, the square got even more crowded as she passed through the middle. People and noises piled up on top of each other. A person ran by holding a chicken for some reason, and its cawing added to the cacophony. A man walked past Sanya, brushing against her jacket with his sleeve. It would have touched her bare arm if the jacket hadn't been there. Sanya shivered at the thought. She couldn't shake the feeling of cloth moving over skin in such a nauseating manner.

Sanya saw a pretzel vendor to the right of her, and she practically ran over to the boy. She fumbled through the entire encounter, confused the

way someone might be confused after having smoke blown into the eyes. She emerged from it victorious though, with a pretzel held firmly in her right hand. Sanya bit into it, chewing as she walked down the square, coming nearer and nearer to the house. She looked at the house, only the house, not the people around her, not the bonfires that appeared intermittently, just the house.

Sanya's foot hit a stone jutting out a couple of inches above the rest. She slipped and fell onto the ground. Her pretzel fell from her hand, a dollar and some cents lying there on the ground next to her. It was ok though. The salt crystals on the pretzel were too big.

Sanya jumped off from the ground, not wanting to get in anyone's path. She walked quicker. The house grew nearer and nearer. She willed herself to keep walking steadily, to not break into a run now that it drew so close. In a few seconds, her hands touched the wooden door, and she felt her own breathing again. She sprinted into the house, slamming the door behind her against the crowded square.



WATCH THE LATEST CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS



7 P.M. MONDAYS

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KVAQTV