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Beto O'Rourke RIDER FILE PHOTO

Greg Abbott and Beto O'Rourke to debate Friday

Fatima Gamez Lopez
 SPANISH EDITOR

Republican incumbent Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke will meet for a private debate hosted by Nexstar Media at 7 p.m. Friday in Performing Arts Complex A on the UTRGV campus in Edinburg.

The event will be televised and streamed.

"The debate is the only scheduled face-to-face meeting between the two candidates," according to the Nexstar Media news release.

Nexstar Media Group, America's largest local television and media company, will host a multi-market live telecast for the debate.

The hour long debate will be available via broadcast or digital live stream in every county of the state, potentially bringing together 12 million viewers across Texas, according to the news release.

The debate will air on local Nexstar television stations serving 14 markets across the state. See **DEBATE**, Page 8

Physician Assistant Career Program accepts largest cohort

Andrea Flores
 THE RIDER

Classes have begun for UTRGV's Physician Assistant Career Track (PACT) Early Assurance Program's largest cohort, which provides students with a conditional admission to the College of Health Professions Master in Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS).

On Sept. 15, UTRGV announced PACT selected eight first-year students for its program last spring. Only 10 high school seniors are able to enter the program each year. The previous cohort consisted of five students.

PACT Program Coordinator Angelica Urbina said the program helps students avoid fierce MPAS competition.

"So, coming in as a PACT student, they have that seat waiting for them where they

See **COHORT**, Page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV's Physician Assistant Career Track Early Assurance Program selected eight students, its largest cohort, last spring. These students began classes this semester. Shown are Ana Ramirez (from left), Tori Villarreal, Scarlet Elizondo, Damaris Cantu, Greeshma John, Jacklyn Espinosa, Blanca Ochoa and Ivan Gonzalez.

¡SÍ SE PUEDE!

Dolores Huerta cultivates poder



Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

U.S. labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta leads a "Si se puede" chant during a symposium Sept. 19 in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Huerta, 92, spoke to dozens of attendees about civil rights, the importance of voting and never giving up.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Silvana Villarreal
 VAQUERO RADIO

U.S. labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta spoke about the importance of voting and standing together as a community to a crowd of more than a 100 people during a symposium Sept. 19 in Brownsville.

The UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies, Office of Public Art and College of Fine Arts hosted "The Pursuit of Social Justice—Past, Present and Future" symposium featuring Huerta in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center. *La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)*, *Cosecha* Voices and local activists also took part in panel discussions as part of Latinx Heritage Month.

Huerta advocated for farmworkers' unemployment and health-care benefits as well as safer working conditions, and continues to fight for human and civil rights, according to the National Women's History Museum website.

See **PODER**, Page 8

Brownsville Public Utilities Board officials answer bill questions

Natalie Lapsley
 THE RIDER

Officials from the Brownsville Public Utilities Board and City Manager's Office presented an update regarding electric rates during last Tuesday's city commission meeting.

The presentation took place as a work session item, meaning commissioners would not vote or take any action, only hear

the presentation and pose questions.

John Bruciak, general manager of BPUB, said the utility staff and board are concerned about the large bills and that their goal for the evening was to educate the community about why bills are increasing and how they plan to assist customers.

"As employees, we're dedicated to our utility and our

community," Bruciak said. "As customers, we've seen some of the same high bills as we've all seen this summer and we know no customer likes surprises when they open their bill.

"We acknowledge this is a tough time for our customers and we're doing our best to help in any way, shape or form that we can. ... This is not a Brownsville problem. This is a community problem. This is a See **UTILITIES**, Page 8



Natalie Lapsley/THE RIDER

John Bruciak, general manager of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, answers a question posed by District 2 City Commissioner Jessica Tetreau after a presentation during last Tuesday's city commission meeting. Also shown is Marilyn Gilbert (right), BPUB assistant general manager and chief operating officer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday Christians at RGV Tabling
Christians at RGV will hand out flyers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

BESO General Meeting
The Bilingual Education Student Organization will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Education Complex Room 2.224 on the Edinburg campus and via Zoom.

HOST Club General Meeting
The HOST Club will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 121 on the Edinburg campus.

K.I.S.S. General Meeting
The Korean International Student Society will meet from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West Room 1.404 on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday at the Education Complex.

K.I.S.S. Fundraiser
The Korean International Student Society will sell Asian snacks and ramen from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus outdoor grounds on the Edinburg campus.

V Link, Engagement 101
The Center for Student Involvement and Student Ambassadors will host an information session where students may decorate a tote bag and learn how to use V Link/Corq app and the Engagement Zone to get involved on campus from 2 to 3 p.m. in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

House of Fashion
The House of Fashion will hold a general meeting from 4 to 5 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 161 and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 881 150 4503.

Campus Cleanup Day
The Bilingual Education Student Organization will give out equipment to help clean the campus from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. It will take place in front of Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in front of the University Library on the Brownsville campus.

Tau Kappa Epsilon Meeting
Tau Kappa Epsilon will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. in the University Center Bronc

Room on the Edinburg campus.

CEA Meeting
The Civic Engagement Alliance will conduct with its first meeting of the semester to introduce its new executive board and discuss upcoming events from 6 to 7 p.m. in Salón Gardenia on the Brownsville campus.

Bible Study
The Encounter Campus Ministry will conduct a Bible study from 6 to 8 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic and Engineering Building Room 1.212 on the Edinburg campus. There will be free food.

Tuesday AS+K About Suicide to Save a Life
The Counseling Center will hold a presentation on suicide prevention from 10 a.m. to noon online. RSVP on V Link.

Turning Point Tabling
Turning Point USA at UTRGV will hold an informational session about the organization from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus and at the same time and place Wednesday. Members will hand out stickers, posters and buttons.

Holy Mass
The Catholic Student Association will celebrate Mass from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Criminal Justice Meeting
The American Criminal Justice Association Sigma Kappa Chi will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

V Link and Engagement Zone
The Involvement Ambassadors and the Center for Student Involvement will share information on how to get involved on campus from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in University Center Room 205. They will also decorate tote bags.

Brownsville Bible Reading
Christians at RGV will host a Bible reading from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus and at the same place from noon to 1:45 p.m. Wednesday. There will be free food.

RGV German Club Meeting
The RGV German Club will meet from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.502 on the Brownsville campus.

Delight Chapter Meetings
The Delight Ministries will meet from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 177 on the Edinburg

campus.

Hazing Prevention Luncheon
Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Center for Student Involvement will hold a luncheon to raise awareness about hazing. They will meet in Student Union Room 2.406 on the Edinburg campus and Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus.

Professional Development Meeting
The Bilingual Education Student Organization will hold an informational session regarding the Intercultural Development Research Association from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Free Lunch Wednesday
The Catholic Student Association will host a free lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Newman Catholic Student Center on the Edinburg campus.

House of Fashion Recruiting
The House of Fashion will hold an informational session from 1 to 2 p.m. on the Student Union East Patio on the Edinburg campus.

InqSpot Book Club
InqSpot will meet from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union loft on the Edinburg campus and in the Student Union La Sala on the Brownsville campus. They will give out free ebooks of "Dominicana: A Novel."

Host Club Fundraising
The Host Club will sell hot dogs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Leadership Identity
The Student Leadership Academy and the Center for Student Involvement will host a meeting from 2 to 3 p.m. in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. They will teach attendees how to commit to their values to learn their leadership identity.

Hazing Prevention Panel
Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Center For Student Involvement will hold a hazing prevention panel discussion from 6 to 7 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Graphic Thoughts
The University Library will conduct a moderated discussion about comics and animation from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Thursday

Café Latino Americano
Students are invited to taste the cuisines of Puerto Rico during a cafe hosted by the Council for Cultural Activities from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Main Building 2.402 on the Brownsville campus.

IMA General Meeting
The Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business will meet from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 120G on the Edinburg campus. There will be free food.

Gaming Tournament
The Student Union will host a gaming tournament from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus.

Chi Alpha Meeting
Chi Alpha Campus Ministry will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. in Science Building Room 2.102 on the Edinburg campus. They will worship God and meet in fellowship.

Friday Event Reservations
The Center for Student Involvement will hold an informational session regarding event scheduling from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Dance Workshop
The Filipino Student Association will conduct a modern dance workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. in Recreation Center Dance Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Suture Workshop
The Pre-PA Society will teach attendees how to suture from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.114 on the Brownsville campus.

Virtual Painting
The Bilingual Education Student Organization will teach attendees how to paint Frida Kahlo from 6 to 7 p.m. The Zoom link will be provided via personal email. Payment and materials are required.

Saturday Learn and Serve
Students may volunteer at an adoption event at PetSmart, located at 585 E. Morrison Road in Brownsville. The event, hosted by Center for Student Involvement in collaboration with the Brownsville Animal Defense, will take place from 12:30 to 6 p.m. at Sign up at ez.utrgv.edu/need/detail/?need_id=730881.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 15 and 20.

Sept. 15 6:17 p.m.: While on vehicle patrol, an officer spotted a non-affiliated woman who was known to have an active criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV property. The woman was observed walking in Lot E-21 on the Edinburg campus. The officer contacted the woman and confirmed the criminal trespass warning. She was subsequently booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail on a charge of criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor.

Sept. 16 1:30 p.m.: A student reported that her

parking permit was stolen from inside her vehicle's windshield while parked in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 17 2:50 p.m.: An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a defective tail lamp on the 1200 block of West Van Week Street in Edinburg. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the non-affiliated driver had an active and confirmed arrest warrant for the offense of endangering a child (state jail felony) from Webb County. The man was arrested and booked into the Hidalgo County Adult Detention Facility.

Sept. 19 8:35 a.m.: A UTRGV Mathematics and

Science Academy student reported a non-affiliated female friend had been sexually assaulted off campus in Brownsville. UTRGV police officers contacted the victim at an off-campus location with her high school counselor present at the victim's request and provided proper guidance on how to report the offense to the appropriate jurisdictional police department when she was ready.

Sept. 20 10:17 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus after being called by a non-affiliated adult man due to shortness of breath. Officers and emergency medical services located the man and discovered he had physical and mental disabilities and was left at

the University Recreation Center by his mother, who purchased a day pass while she attended a class. His mother was located on campus and proceeded to go to the hospital with her son. The incident is under investigation and a referral to Adult Protective Services was completed.

3:16 p.m.: A student riding his bicycle through a marked crosswalk was struck by a university vehicle on the 1200 block of West Van Week Street in Edinburg. The student sustained minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital by emergency medical services for further care. The Edinburg Police Department investigated and generated an auto/bicyclist collision report.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez



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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Student Emergency Fund in need of donations

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Requirements:

- Be enrolled at UTRGV during the semester they seek financial assistance.
- Have a nonrecurring emergency, accident or unforeseen event that has to be taken care of right away.
- The capability to attend UTRGV must somehow be in jeopardy due to the emergency.
- Other possible financial resources must have been considered and deemed insufficient or not available in a timely manner.
- Provide requested documentation.
- Preference will be given to first-time applicants.



WANT TO DONATE?

Visit give.utrgv.edu/studentemergencyfund or mail a check to:

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Division of Institutional Advancement
701 E. Expressway 83, Box 13
McAllen, Texas 78501

fund to close during Summer I 2022.

"We have a little over \$9,000, so compared to the \$85 million we were awarded, it's very minimal," Castilla said.

The money for the Student Emergency Fund is raised through a donation process.

"Our Advancement Office is the one that does the fundraising," Castilla said. "They have campaigns throughout the year to encourage individuals to donate to various purposes that are of financial assistance. ... The SEF is one of those high-need areas that they have identified."

With minimal money available, the emergency fund has few options to assist students in need.

Started in April 2020, the program has received over \$100,000, but it has not received many donations recently, said Jeanette Benavides, director of UTRGV's Endowment Compliance and Gift Accounting.

"We do annual appeals to reach out to our alumni, the graduates," Benavides said. "During COVID, the Student Emergency Fund received more funds, but most recently there hasn't been a lot of activity."

Because the amount of money available to give to students is limited, the number of awards and the amount that can be given will also be limited.

The application for the SEF is open again, but Castilla asks that students apply only after exhausting all other resources.

"I would hate for students to be disappointed as they were used to getting easily approved and awarded ... when we had the COVID-19-related funds," she said.

Donations to the Student Emergency Fund can be made through its website, give.utrgv.edu/studentemergencyfund, or mailed to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Division of Institutional Advancement, 701 E. Expy. 83, Box 13, McAllen, Texas, 78501.

Teresita Dominguez

THE RIDER

During the COVID-19 pandemic, universities across the country received additional COVID-19 relief funds to award to students in case of emergencies, according to university officials.

The relief provided UTRGV's Student Emergency Fund with about \$85 million, said Griselda Castilla, associate vice president for Strategic Enrollment.

After awarding monies to students

during COVID-19, most of the fund has been exhausted, Castilla said.

The Student Emergency Fund is a program that provides limited, last-resort financial assistance to UTRGV students who are experiencing sudden emergencies or accidents that necessitate emergency monetary assistance to continue their academic career, according to its webpage.

Castilla said the fund does not cover

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

university tuition or fees.

"[SEF] is for true emergencies that will prevent the student from continuing their education," Castilla said.

The amount awarded to students ranges from \$50 to a maximum of \$500, depending on the situation and how much is needed, she said.

Without the additional COVID-19 relief monies, UTRGV's Student Emergency Fund has been nearly depleted, causing applications for the

TO DONATE, VISIT
[GIVE.UTRGV.EDU/
STUDENTEMERGENCYFUND](http://GIVE.UTRGV.EDU/STUDENTEMERGENCYFUND)

Obituary

Russell Eisenman, psychology professor

Aurora Acevedo

THE RIDER

Russell Eisenman, a psychology professor who taught at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American, died June 24, 2022, at his residence in Edinburg. He was 82.

Dr. Eisenman was born on April 17, 1940, in Savannah, Georgia, to Abram and Georgia Eisenman.

He received his doctoral degree in psychology from the University of Georgia.

Before working in Edinburg, he was employed as a psychology professor at Temple University in Philadelphia; The University of California, Santa Cruz; McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana; and Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Dr. Eisenman worked at legacy institution UTPA and UTRGV as a psychology professor for about 20 years.

"Students liked him very much," said Jerwen Jou, a professor in the Department of Psychological Science and a colleague of Dr. Eisenman who knew him since 2001. "He was very kind to his students. He was very nice to his colleagues, including me."

Asked what he will always remember about Dr. Eisenman, Jou said that he admired his "spirit of never wanting to retire."

"I would remember him as a person who never stops working, even at the age of over 80 years of age," he said. "His determination to work and never retire is something that I think is admired."

Jou said that a couple of weeks before Dr. Eisenman's death, he expressed interest in a journal.

"He emailed the department saying he became the associate editor of a journal and encouraged colleagues to submit papers to that journal," he said.

Dr. Eisenman's son, David, described his father as "very smart and funny."

"His sharp mind and great sense of humor made him a good teacher and a fun and interesting person to talk to," David Eisenman wrote in an email to The Rider. "[He] was loved and will be missed for all of his unique qualities and joy."

Besides his son David, Dr. Eisenman is survived by his daughter Susan and grandson Kelsey, both of Santa Cruz, California; brother Bob, of Oakland, California; and best friend Ramiro Zamora, of Edinburg.



COURTESY PHOTO



For the future of education



Roxanna Miranda
PHOTOGRAPHER

It's sad to think there is a shortage in the career that makes it all happen. Educators are the ones who teach our future doctors, nurses, firefighters, scientists, you name them. A big part of who these remarkable people become is all thanks to the educators they had early in their life. I know being an educator is a difficult and scary responsibility, especially in the world we live in today. But this is what I want to do. In fact, I've always known it. I want to inspire the little minds that will grow up to make our nation great again. I've had many wonderful teachers to learn from, and I appreciate being guided by the love and enthusiasm they emphasize in their classrooms. Seeing students achieve the milestones they need in order to reach success is something I look forward to

experiencing myself. Teaching a student the alphabet and how to read will become milestones in my own career. Recently, I started my field experience in a second-grade classroom, and all I can say is, "I'm here for it." It's my first time working with little ones, besides past experiences with some higher grade levels, and I love how each of them has something different to learn. They are all like little mystery boxes waiting to be discovered. You never know

I know "underpaid" and "stressful" is not something that can catch your eye, but this field has many other valuable ways to repay you for all that you do for our future leaders.

what silly thing they will do or say next, but that's one of the perks of being in this field. Your students will light up your day when you most need them to. It will remind you why you got into this in the first place. Many might say, "You probably don't know what you're getting yourself into," and coming from a family of educators, I think I've heard quite some stories, but none that have discouraged me from becoming what I want to be.

It's been a heck of a ride trying to become an educator. There were late nights that seemed endless, studying to pass five certification exams, but I'm glad I'm almost at the finish line. Hopefully, it's not too long till I will finally be given my first group of students and it will all be worth it. I want to take this time to encourage you to look into this pathway. I know "underpaid" and "stressful" is not something that can catch your eye, but this field

has many other valuable ways to repay you for all that you do for our future leaders. We need more teachers! They are our pillars for a brighter future. And, no, it's not for everyone. It really isn't. You need to have a big, strong heart and mind to take on this responsibility. Nonetheless, I don't blame those who have decided to exit the education field. If anything, thank you for the dedication and hard work you gave to this field.



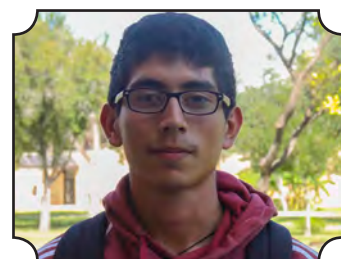
Should live-action movie remakes stay true to the ethnicity of the original characters?



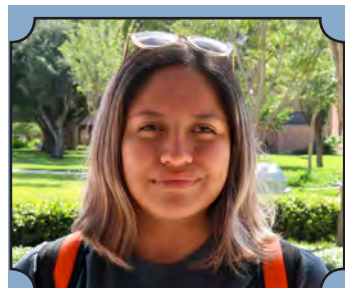
Fatima Cervantes
interdisciplinary studies freshman

"I don't think so, because you don't have to be a certain way or look a certain type to be good at something. And I don't think that your race, or your color, or whatever, determines what you can do or what you can't do."

"Yes. It keeps the story intact and helps you visualize it better, I guess."



Oswaldo Martinez
mechanical engineering freshman



Lia Quintero
kinesiology sophomore

"That is, like, a tricky question, because at the same time you are doing what you saw. However, if you are, like, redoing it, it's because you want to, like, include everyone as well. So, like, I feel like there is a limit. However, like, the production, sometimes they [don't] know how to stay right in that limit instead of, like, passing that limit, you know?"

"I feel like if the ethnicity of the character doesn't necessarily influence the plot of the movie, it shouldn't really be important. But if the ethnicity of the character is something that defines the character, then they should keep it as it is."



Francisco Contreras
clinical practice freshman



Jenefer Hernandez
electrical engineering sophomore

"Pues yo pienso la verdad que muchos niños como vemos son diferentes tipos de colores, diferentes nacionalidades, diferentes culturas. Así que si ellos se sienten identificados con cierto carácter, pues, ¿por qué no deberían ser las nuevas así?"

--Compiled and photos by Abigail Ollave

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER TALK LIKE YODA OR BREATHE LIKE DARTH VADER?

Yoda

88%

Darth Vader

12%

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com to participate →

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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.

Dolores Huerta cultiva poder



Daniela Martinez Salazar/FOTO RIDER

La líder sindical y activista de derechos civiles de EE.UU. Dolores Huerta encabeza el cántico “Sí se puede” durante un simposio el 19 de septiembre en el Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center en Brownsville. Huerta, de 92 años, habló con decenas de asistentes sobre los derechos civiles, la importancia de votar y nunca darse por vencido.

Silvana Villarreal VAQUERO RADIO

La líder sindical y activista de derechos civiles de EE.UU. Dolores Huerta habló sobre la importancia de votar y permanecer unidos como comunidad ante una multitud de más de 100 personas durante un simposio el 19 de septiembre en Brownsville.

El Centro de Estudios Mexicano-Americanos de UTRGV, la Oficina de Arte Pública y la Facultad de Bellas Artes organizaron el simposio “La búsqueda de la justicia social: pasado, presente y futuro” con Huerta en el Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center. La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), Cosecha Voces y

activistas locales también participaron en paneles de discusión como parte del Mes de la Herencia Latinx.

Huerta abogó por los beneficios del desempleo y atención médica de los trabajadores agrícolas, así como por condiciones de trabajo más seguras, y continúa luchando por los derechos humanos y civiles,

según el sitio web del Museo Nacional de Historia de la Mujer.

Ella enfatizó la importancia de votar a lo largo de la conferencia.

“Solo tenemos que elegir a las personas adecuadas para nuestro Congreso y para gobernador”, dijo Huerta.

La activista de 92 años dijo que cree que el cambio en la sociedad comienza cuando las personas se registran para votar y es importante tener en cuenta las políticas de inmigración, guardería universal, atención médica y el calentamiento global al votar.

“Estamos en un momento crítico en los Estados Unidos donde nuestra democracia está siendo desafiada”, dijo Huerta.

Ella dijo que los activistas no pueden darse el lujo de agotarse, ya que todavía hay personas que necesitan escuchar lo que tienen que decir.

“Estás tratando de organizar a la gente y empoderar a la gente”, dijo Huerta. “No tienes tiempo para pensar en tus problemas personales”.

Un panel de discusión titulado *RGV Activism Today* contó con la participación de los activistas locales Denise Palacios, Josue Ramirez y Dani Marrero Hi, quienes explicaron la importancia de

involucrarse en el activismo social.

Cuando se le preguntó por qué está involucrada en el activismo, Palacios, una organizadora de *Texas Rising*, respondió: “A lo largo de la frontera, realmente no tenemos otra opción.”

“Tener al gobierno siempre diciéndote si puedes o no hacer algo, o si tu humanidad es reconocida o no debido a la legalidad, realmente impactó mi vida a una edad temprana”.

El simposio se realiza en conjunto con la Exposición itinerante del Instituto Smithsonian: “Dolores Huerta, *Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en los Campos*”, que relata su vida.

La exhibición se encuentra en el Museo de Bellas Artes de Brownsville y estará en exhibición hasta el sábado.

Dahlia Guerra, vicepresidenta adjunta de Arte Público y Proyectos Especiales de UTRGV, ayudó a organizar el evento junto con Stephanie Alvarez, directora del Centro de Estudios México-Estadounidenses de UTRGV.

“Creo que debemos inspirarnos en su determinación de hacer un mundo mejor”, dijo Guerra.

Los panelistas calificaron a Huerta de heroína y la describieron como poderosa y

Vea HUERTA, Página 8

I.T. TECHDAYS

Cyber security > Web design > Gaming > UI/UX > IT Support Services

Edinburg Campus:
Ballroom
Monday, Oct. 3, 2022

Harlingen:
UTRGV Clinical Education Building
Auditorium / Rotunda & Hallway
Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022

Open to UTRGV students (student ID recommended).
Visit utrgv.edu/IT/events/ittechdays for details.

Camille Playhouse back in full force

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

After two unstable years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Camille Playhouse in Brownsville hopes the 59th season is free of setbacks with new Artistic Director Brandon Binder at the helm.

After a nationwide search for a new artistic director, Binder started on Aug. 1 with short- and long-term plans.

He told The Rider it feels incredible to be chosen for the position, especially after helping, volunteering and performing at the Camille Playhouse for about 15 years.

The 59th season will feature seven productions, including "Pippin," "Mojada," "The Sound of Music," "Spider's Web," "Songs for a New World," "As You Like It" and "Dorothy Meets Alice."

With the season already underway with a performance of "Pippin" on Sept. 16, 17, 18 and last weekend, Binder said it was a great feeling to kick off the first show in his new position.



PHOTO COURTESY CAMILLE PLAYHOUSE

The cast of the musical "Pippin" rehearses Sept. 12 in the Camille Playhouse in Brownsville. "Pippin" is the first of seven productions for the theater's 59th season.

"Pippin" tells the story of a young prince who is searching for his own "corner of the sky," according to the theater's

website.

"This show means a lot to me, being the show that we were preparing to do in March of

2020, when everything closed down," he said.

Born and raised in Brownsville, Binder said one of

his main focuses in the first year is increasing the exposure of the theater.

"In about a year, one of our biggest things is increasing ... exposure of the theater," Binder said. "We still have people here in town that don't know that it's here or know what we do. So, I believe this season and, especially, our next season, we're going to be able to let more people know of what we do here and what we bring to the community."

A long-term goal is to be able to perform across the entire Rio Grande Valley and Texas with a full crew and staff to help build and move set pieces.

Karen Gonzalez Goldschmidt, who portrayed Fastrada in the musical "Pippin" during her second season with the Camille, told The Rider she has been a supporter since the early 2000s. She gave it a try in the 58th season with "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

"I had no experience, no background, but it's just something that I enjoy and I

See CAMILLE, Page 8

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-Allowing guilt to haunt your decisions is an unhealthy habit. Remember, the universe will encourage matters to happen in a certain way to make room for other things that are coming. Stay grounded by believing in your choices and moving forward.

Leo-Life requires sacrifices from time to time to have a better outcome in the long run. There may be certain people or circumstances that you need to step away from. In doing this, the universe can provide a better path of success for you.

Sagittarius-Don't allow others to influence your purpose in the world. Figure out what kind of person you want to be and the impact you're trying to leave on the world. Forget about reaching any expectations others may have for you and start making your own.

Libra-Trusting your instincts is always something you second-guess. Learn how to lead with them in order to help make the right choices. Don't be afraid to commit to the things you are sure about. Let go of any uncertain thoughts and begin to trust yourself.

Gemini-Just because you find yourself in solitude doesn't mean you need to secure a relationship. Be patient and keep exploring your options. This will lead you to a stronger connection rather than one based on how you felt in the moment.

Aquarius-Someone from your past will try to reach out and make a confession in due time. This reconciliation could only be to their benefit and not yours. Be careful with how close you allow this person to get. Perhaps hear them out from a distance.

Scorpio-Be cautious of your decision-making whenever you are feeling unstable. Letting your emotions get the best of you can lead to poor choices, especially ones you'll regret. It is OK to acknowledge them but don't let them control the way you react.

Pisces-Manifestation is big for you this week. In order for situations to happen the way you anticipate, think positively and believe it has already happened the way you imagined. This energy will allow your ideas to come to fruition and lead you to where you wanted.

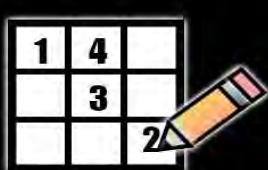
Cancer-Since we've been in Mercury retrograde, you've been finding yourself in certain predicaments. Although this energy can make you feel frustrated, try to stay calm and learn from it. This retrograde is meant to shake you up but don't let it shape you.

Taurus-Rather than doing favors for others, focus on prioritizing your needs. Learn to love and choose yourself first. Others could be only using you for their convenience and not considering the value you bring to the table.

Virgo-A connection in your life is starting to feel more important than you anticipated. Instead of running away, allow it to influence you positively and take all that you can learn from it. Focus on growing within and together, permit it to leave its mark on you.

Capricorn-It is time to release the burden in your life that is holding you back. Start making choices for yourself instead of letting others make them for you. Reflect on what serves purpose in your life and let go of the rest.

Sudoku



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Last week's puzzle answer key:

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Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña



UTRGV expands baseball player search



Te Kani Williams



Matthew Gonzalez/THE RIDER

Te Kani Williams, a business administration senior from Auckland, New Zealand, is captain of the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team and competes in singles and doubles.

Q: What do you like to do in your downtime?

A: "I enjoy spending time with my girlfriend [and] hanging out with the boys, whether it's just at my place watching tennis or playing video games. I don't mind going to the gym, going to the beach, and I like fishing."

Q: How did you get into playing tennis?

A: "So, when I was 3, my older sister was actually getting tennis lessons. One day, my dad took me to go pick her up [at] practice. Her coach saw me swinging around one of her rackets and asked me to hop on the court. He threw me a couple balls, and [I was] lucky enough to connect on those shots. It just took off from there."

Q: What made you want to play here in America?

A: "Since I was about a teenager, a lot of guys from my country, if they [are] good enough, they get to go over and come here and play [in] college. Looking at those sorts of guys and thinking, 'Yeah, that's what I want to do.'"

Q: What would you like to say to anyone feeling homesick?

A: "I feel homesick quite a lot. I'd say, if anything, just try and stay in touch with your family and friends as much as possible. Get on the phone with them. Let them know how you're feeling [and] how you're doing, because at the end of the day, that's your biggest support system."

Q: Who has been your biggest inspiration or role model?

A: "Parents, for sure. One of my older cousins was a big role model for me. My granddad, [too]. He was a huge role model for me growing up, as well. And then, tenniswise, I'd say, [Rafael] Nadal. I felt [he's] easily the best tennis player that's ever lived. Just the way he fights, his grit, the way he never gives up, and [he] just hustles, so that's what I love about him. I tried to emulate a lot of what he does in my game."

Q: What is your favorite show/movie?

A: "Probably, my favorite show would be 'Ozark.' It's on Netflix. It's unbelievable. And then, favorite movie [is], probably, the first 'Avengers' movie."

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: "Minced cheese pie."

--Compiled by Matthew Gonzalez

Jose Medina

THE RIDER

UTRGV Athletics has announced that it will host open tryouts for the baseball team at 5 p.m. Oct. 6. Participants must bring their own equipment.

Asked how many people he expects to come out for tryouts, UTRGV Baseball head coach Derek Matlock replied, "I think it's easily around 20, 20 to 30."

He said the tryouts will last one day and if someone looks promising, they will be further evaluated.

"We have 14 days to evaluate a walk-on compliant," Matlock said. "So, once we see them the first day, if we like them, we'll keep seeing them. And, if we don't like them, we're not going to lead them on and let them come out here and do all that for nothing."

Asked if there was a cap on how many players will be chosen, he replied there is not, but it would not be easy to get in. He said they were going to cut some of the current roster and they are good players, so it will be challenging for a walk-on to be picked.

Assistant coach Kyle Kilgo said most big programs hold open tryouts.

"The hope that you find a sleeper out there, that kind of got looked over or didn't play a lot but has some talent, you don't want to ever

not have the opportunity to maybe catch a guy that everybody missed," Kilgo said.

He said it is not often that overlooked talent is found.

"Every once in a while you find a big arm, or an older guy who hadn't pitched

"The hope that you find a sleeper out there, that kind of got looked over or didn't play a lot but has some talent, you don't want to ever not have the opportunity to maybe catch a guy that everybody missed."

--Kyle Kilgo

Baseball Assistant Coach

in a while or dropped out of the game for personal reasons or whatever," Kilgo said. "And they show up and we're like, 'Man, this guy's got a chance to help us.'"

Participants have to be full-time students and meet eligibility requirements, he said.

Kilgo also said UTRGV Baseball looks for talent and skill as well as a certain culture.

"There's a culture to our program and that's a big part of it," he said. "We like guys when they come out, they get after it, they work hard, they're selfless players and they want to be a part of something bigger than themselves."

Volunteer assistant Ryan Jackson said the tryout "should run about an hour and a half, maybe two hours. They'll go through their 60 times, their skills at their position. ... We got pitchers to throw bullpens."

"Bring your own cleats, bats, gloves," Jackson said. "Whatever you need on the baseball field, bring it with you."

The deadline to register is 5 p.m. Friday. Tryouts will take place at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus.

Students interested in trying out may call Jackson at 607-0088, email ryan.jackson01@utrgv.edu or visit him in person at the baseball stadium.

Participants need proof of insurance and to be full-time students.

For more information, visit goutrgv.com/news/2022/9/12/baseball-to-hold-open-tryouts.aspx.



UTRGV Pitcher

Randy Garza

RIDER FILE PHOTO

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Volleyball

6:30 p.m. THURSDAY VS. UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY

1 p.m. SATURDAY VS. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

DEBATE*Continued from Page 1*

Texas, including KVEO-TV in Harlingen, Weslaco, Brownsville and McAllen.

The debate will be moderated by Britt Moreno, KXAN-TV evening news anchor, and will feature a panel of journalists,

including Sally Hernandez, KXAN-TV morning news anchor; Gromer Jeffers, political reporter for The Dallas Morning News; and Steve Spriester, news anchor and reporter for KSAT-TV in San Antonio, according to the news release.

"In addition, a group of undecided voters

in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area will watch the debate as it happens and give real-time feedback on candidates' responses, which viewers will be able to see live on the websites of all Nexstar stations serving Texas," the release states.

Texans may submit questions for the

debate to TXGovDebate@nexstar.tv.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 11 and the mail-in ballot application deadline is Oct. 28. Early voting begins Oct. 24 and ends Nov. 4. Election Day is Nov. 8.

To register, visit VoteTexas.Gov.

COHORT*Continued from Page 1*

don't have to compete against other people," Urbina said.

To obtain a place in the MPAS after the PACT program, she said students need to meet certain requirements.

"They can get any major," Urbina said. "They just have to make sure they get their bachelor's degree as well as ... take all the prerequisites for PA school. And, they also have to maintain their honor status."

Jacklyn Espinosa, a biomedical sciences sophomore from Hidalgo Early College High School, is part of this year's cohort. Espinosa said that when she received the news of her acceptance into PACT, it gave her the motivation to

become a physician assistant.

"I'm very excited," Espinosa said. "I actually didn't think I was gonna get in the first place because, I think, like, 'Oh, the interview didn't go as great as I thought,' but once, like, they sent me the email I was super excited. It's inspiring me more to become a physician assistant in the future."

Tori Villarreal, a biology junior from Edinburg North High School, said she was overcome with emotion about her acceptance.

"I had found out right after our [South Texas College] graduation, so I had family with me, and when I got the email, I had literal, like, tears and everything, because it was something we had been waiting for since February,

when I turned in the application," Villarreal said.

Urbina said it is important to grow the physician assistant population from the Rio Grande Valley because it will mean that students will most likely stay in the area and provide health care to the community.

She also talked about one of the benefits PACT students have over others outside the program.

"We invite them to be mock patients in some of our standardized testing," Urbina said. "And, they get ... a little bit of a taste in the practical examinations that our students go through."

Jhoana Rivera-Ramirez, a senior in PACT Early Assurance Program, provided some words of advice to this

year's cohort.

"They need to have a very rigorous mentality, that, although they are accepted into PA school and they have these academic requirements, it's important for them to continue growing their passion for the profession," Rivera-Ramirez said.

To apply, students must be South Texas residents, graduate in their high school's top 5% with a minimum 3.7 GPA and 3.5 or higher in science courses, and undergo interviews with UTRGV and College of Health Professions faculty and staff, according to its website. Students must also submit recommendation letters, a personal written statement and a video essay.

PODER*Continued from Page 1*

She emphasized the importance of voting throughout the lecture.

"We just have to elect the right people to our Congress and for governor," Huerta said.

The 92-year-old activist said she believes change in society starts when people register to vote and it is important to keep immigration, universal day care, health care and global-warming policies in mind while voting.

"We are in a critical moment in the United States where our democracy is being challenged," Huerta said.

She said activists do not have the luxury of getting burned out as there are still people out there who need to hear

what they have to say.

"You're out there trying to organize people and get people empowered," Huerta said. "You don't have time to think about your personal problems."

A panel discussion titled RGV Activism Today featured local activists Denisse Palacios, Josue Ramirez and Dani Marrero Hi, who explained the importance of being involved in social activism.

Asked why she is involved in activism, Palacios, a Texas Rising organizer, replied, "Along the border, we don't really have a choice.

"Having the government always tell you whether you can or can't do something, or whether or not your humanity is recognized because of legality, really impacted my life at a young age."

The symposium is in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition: Dolores Huerta, Revolution in the Fields/*Revolución en los Campos*," which chronicles her life. The exhibit is housed at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art and will be on display until Saturday.

Dahlia Guerra, UTRGV assistant vice president for Public Art and Special Projects, helped organize the event along with Stephanie Alvarez, director of the UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies.

"I believe that we should be inspired by her determination to make a better world," Guerra said.

The panelists called Huerta a hero and described her as powerful and extraordinary.

Huerta worked alongside activist Cesar Chavez, who died in 1993. They co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA).

She served as the main negotiator for the work contracts that followed the 1965 Delano Strike and led the international consumer boycotting of grapes that resulted in the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, according to the National Women's History Museum website.

Due to her groundbreaking work, Huerta was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, presented by then-President Barack Obama; the Puffin Prize for Creative Citizenship in 2002; and the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, presented by then-President Bill Clinton in 1998.

UTILITIES*Continued from Page 1*

nationwide problem that we're trying to get our hands on."

Mike Perez, BPUB assistant general manager and chief financial officer, said there are three main reasons that utility bills have gone up in price.

"We've had a scorching summer with record-breaking heat, which has led to higher customer energy usage," Perez said.

Another factor is "record-high inflation" that contributes to higher natural gas prices, he said. Natural gas prices have gone up 70% since June 2022 and 525% since June 2020.

Higher bills are also attributed to a rate adjustment, a new resaca fee and an increase in water and wastewater rates that took effect in June.

"Although BPUB lowered the base electric rate by 11% in June, higher natural gas prices outweigh that 11% which is why electric bills went up," Perez said. "BPUB has kept the Fuel-Purchase and Energy Charge [rate] static for five years as part of a bill reduction program, but as base-electric rates went down and natural gas prices went up, it became necessary to adjust the FPEC rate to reflect market prices.

"Additionally, to keep up with the growth of ongoing maintenance and increased demand on our water and wastewater systems, there were some water, wastewater rate increases for the first time in years in June, along with the new resaca fee for all BPUB customers."

The resaca fee covers BPUB's share of grant funding, which provides money for staff and equipment.

Marilyn Gilbert, BPUB assistant

general manager and chief operating officer, said "some of the immediate relief programs that help customers are further defined on the PUB website."

As for medium-term measures, BPUB has to conduct research before rolling out assistance programs, according to Gilbert.

BPUB's Risk Oversight Committee and Qualified Scheduling Entity have been researching options for hedging natural gas prices to reduce future financial risk, according to the presentation. Hedging is when a utility company locks in to future gas prices to keep bills consistent.

Also discussed as a long-term measure was advanced metering, which would allow customers to access data about their energy usage.

"Everyone right now has a phone on their hands and they wanna see, 'What is my data consumption?'" Gilbert said. "I call my bank, I'm able to see what

my balance is. ... That's exactly what it is. It's data at your fingertips. But that's not something that can be implemented right away. It's going to take some time for us to bring and change out some of the various, different meters."

She said short-term measures include the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, which funds the majority of customer claims and most individuals will qualify.

There are also two additional programs: the Elderly Low-Income Assistance Program and the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Gilbert also said BPUB has two partners that can further assist customers who are struggling.

For further assistance, call Community Action Corp. of Texas at 435-0379 or Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley at 541-0220.

HUERTA*Continuación de Página 5*

extraordinaria.

Huerta trabajó junto al activista César Chávez, quien murió en 1993. Fueron cofundadores de la Asociación

Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas (NFWA por sus siglas en inglés).

Se desempeñó como la principal negociadora de los contratos de trabajo que siguieron a la Huelga de Delano de 1965 y lideró el boicot internacional de consumidores de uvas que resultó en la

Ley de Relaciones Laborales Agrícolas de California de 1975, según el sitio web del Museo Nacional de Historia de la Mujer.

Debido a su trabajo innovador, Huerta fue honrada con la Medalla Presidencial de la Libertad en 2012,

presentada por el entonces presidente Barack Obama; el Premio Puffin a la Ciudadanía Creativa en 2002; y el Premio de Derechos Humanos Eleanor Roosevelt, presentado por el entonces presidente Bill Clinton en 1998.

--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

CAMILLE*Continued from Page 6*

never thought it was something that I could do or thought I was good enough," Goldschmidt said.

She said of all the works she's been a part of, the first weekend performance had one of the biggest crowds.

Asked what advice she could give to someone that wants to try theater, Goldschmidt replied, "Just go for it. Because you don't even realize what you have inside of you until you're there in that moment."

UTRGV theater junior Rolando Garza De Leon, part of the ensemble and understudy for Pippin, told The Rider he had to drive every day from Pharr to Brownsville for rehearsals.

"I've been looking for a musical to be part of and ... I started following all the theater companies I knew here in the

Valley and, well, I saw the announcement for the casting and I decided to go for it," Garza De Leon said.

As an understudy for the main character, Garza De Leon said on Sept. 25, all the understudies were scheduled to perform.

His advice to his fellow theater majors is to always look for opportunities and never expect or wait for something to come to you.

Garza De Leon said he will be unable to audition for the Camille's next production, "Mojada," due to obligations in the UTRGV Theatre Department's presentation of "Molière," but said he is excited for something "very different."

Binder said the title of "Mojada" by Luis Alfaro has already brought a lot of controversy but the creator of the play did it to get rid of the derogatory purpose of the word and to bring attention to people who are ostracized by the word.

An adaptation of Euripides' "Medea" mixed with Mexican folklore, the play examines the tragedy behind America's immigration system and the destiny of one family caught in its grip. "Mojada" will be performed Oct. 21-23 and 28-30.

"It's so close to home and it shows and highlights the struggles and experiences that our own family members may have gone through," Binder said. "So, we're very excited to bring that and to showcase it, not in a light mood, you know. This is a very intense and dramatic show."

Asked how important it is to produce works about the Latino experience, he replied, "I think it's crucial. I think it's important to have the accessibility and the visualization of what is going on and seeing it brought on to the stage. It's easy for people to dismiss some things if it doesn't just directly affect them."

Ayleen Perez, a Brownsville native who graduated with a bachelor of arts in

theater from Michigan State University, was involved with the Camille Playhouse for the first time in a lead role in "Pippin" and will be the stage manager for "Mojada."

"I feel strongly about arts in places like [Brownsville], because we don't have, as a Latino community, much access to art," Perez said.

She said theater is not only about acting but can be for people who want to build sets and design costumes.

"I think it's important, especially giving the opportunity for those that come from a lower-income family," Perez said. "It's amazing what Camille has been doing, especially it being the only theater in Brownsville, being able to give that access [to art] to anybody because it's for the community."

For information on auditions, showtimes and tickets, visit www.camilleplayhouse.net.