

INSIDE:

On Campus: Through the lens of a telescope **Page 3**

Opinion: Don't weaponize religion **Page 4**

NOTICIAS

Sobreviviente de cancer de mama describe batalla

Página 5



SPORTS

Athlete of the Week

Page 7



Upcoming election motivates students

Juan Villarreal
 THE RIDER

The 2022 midterm election will be held Nov. 8, but for months, politically active students have been advocating for the candidates they support and the policies they want to see enacted.

"Locally, we are seeing a momentum of young people really becoming involved in campaign work," College Democrats President Ivan Puente said.

The College Democrats at UTRGV have been motivated by several factors, including the campaign of progressive Democrat Michelle Vallejo against Republican Monica De La Cruz in the Texas 15th Congressional District race.

"A lot of our members ... [have] become very, very involved in Michelle Vallejo's campaign," Puente said.

Political science Professor Natasha Altema-McNeely said she is confident the results of the elections for U.S. Representative House Districts 15 and 34 "will be very important for the [Rio Grande] Valley."

"Because if you have Republicans continuing to represent 34 and beginning to represent 15, which was traditionally a Democratic seat, [local politics] focus will shift," Altema-McNeely said.

One of the biggest differences between the two parties in this election is the issue of abortion. Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which repealed the constitutional right to have an

See **ELECTION**, Page 8

IT'S ALIVE!

'Frankenstein': an exploration of humanity



Ramiro Castro Jr. /THE RIDER

English graduate student Joshua Kennedy, who portrays Dr. Victor Frankenstein, and theatre senior Gerald Scot Johnson, the Creature, work on their scene for the upcoming UTRGV Theatre Department's performance of "Frankenstein," adapted by Kennedy. Tickets are \$5 each with a UTRGV ID and will be sold at the box office one hour before showtime. See story, Page 6.

Career Center

Teresita Dominguez
 THE RIDER

The UTRGV Career Center assists students by providing a variety of resources, such as resume assistance, mock interviews, career advising and guidance through the next steps after graduation.

UTRGV Survival Guide: Second in a Series

If students are unsure about what major they want to pursue, the Career Center can provide assessments to help them identify their specific gifts and interests.

"We take [information from the assessments] and then we provide different avenues that students can travel down," said Kamara Jackson, director of the Career Center. "A lot of what we do is helping students with

See **CAREER**, Page 8



Fatima Gamez Lopez /THE RIDER

Kimberly De Leon, a civil engineering junior, reads information about the UTRGV Career Center Oct. 3 outside its office located in Student Academic Center Room 2.101 on the Edinburg campus. Students can receive assistance in exploring career goals and job search preparation, which includes resume writing, interviewing and job-search strategies.

Wild renovations proposed



Arisbeth Rodriguez /THE RIDER

Jay Dertinger, a project architect for Seattle-based PJA Architects, discusses the firm has for the Gladys Porter Zoo Master Plan, such as new exhibits and a zip line, last Tuesday during the Brownsville City Commission meeting.

Reprinted from *utrgvrider.com*
Natalie Lapsley
 THE RIDER

Officials from the Gladys Porter Zoo, a constant in Brownsville for just over 50 years, presented

highlights from a master plan to renovate and potentially expand the zoo during last Tuesday's city commission meeting.

The phased plan for the existing zoo is estimated to cost \$30.84 million and outlines

ideas for new and improved exhibits, a zipline and rentable spaces for events.

Expansion of the zoo is estimated to cost over \$130 million and would create room for visitor amenities, new exhibits, a tunnel under Ringgold Street, a themed hotel and more.

Commissioners approved the master plan on first reading.

"I wanna send out our sincere appreciation for your realizing the value of our Gladys Porter Zoo to both Brownsville [and] the Rio Grande Valley," said Patrick Burchfield, executive director of the zoo. "And it's world renowned. We're known worldwide because of the excellent programs for breeding rare and endangered species, our conservation work."

Burchfield said the zoo won awards when it was first built for being "on the forefront" of design and that it now serves

as an "economic engine" for Brownsville by bringing in tourism, providing jobs and dealing with local vendors.

Additionally, of the 2,000 facilities nationwide to use the word "zoo" in its title, Gladys Porter Zoo is one of only 240 to be accredited, meaning it meets high standards of animal welfare, husbandry and exhibitry.

"It's our biggest tourism driver. It's something I think is absolutely necessary, not just to drive growth but to continue to promote quality of life and other opportunities in the city."

--Trey Mendez
 Brownsville mayor

However, Burchfield said standards change, and in order to keep its accreditation status, the zoo must upgrade several of its exhibits, including the lion habitat and the Small World petting zoo. The lion exhibit, which is currently 950

square feet, now needs to be a minimum of 10,000 square feet.

Jay Dertinger, an architect with PJA, a Seattle-based architecture firm that specializes in zoo design, said there are many improvements recommended that could be made within the existing property footprint.

"We prioritized the major improvements into a phasing plan and created a rough ... cost to implement the plan," Dertinger said. "Each phase will develop new exhibits in an orderly progression in order to continue to grow attendance."

Also proposed is the renovation of the existing event center, which is in need of a cosmetic upgrade.

"We saw an opportunity to add some big picture windows directly into the tiger exhibit, which will make it more enticing for people to rent," Dertinger said. "We're proposing an expansion of the catering kitchen to increase the capacity for catering events."

See **RENOVATIONS**, Page 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monday Christians at RGV Tabling

will hand out flyers from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

BESO Risk Management Training

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will hold a general meeting and review a **Risk Management Presentation** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Education Complex Room 2.224 on the Edinburg campus and via Zoom.

HOST Club 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. Meeting

The **Korean International Student Society** will meet from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 161 on the Edinburg campus and at the same time and place Tuesday through Thursday.

Hot Dogs, Hot Cheetos Sale

The **Society of Automotive Engineers** will sell **hot dogs** and **Hot Cheetos** with chili and cheese from noon to 2 p.m. on the Science Promenade on the Edinburg campus.

Sex-Ed Tabling

Access for Sex-Education will hold a tabling event from 1:45 to 4 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and at the same time and place Wednesday. **Free stickers, condoms, Scantrons** and other giveaways will be provided to those who stop by.

BESO Professional Development

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will host state affiliates who will explain what the **Texas Association for Bilingual Education** advocates from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Tau Kappa Epsilon will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. in the University Center Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus.

Bible Study

The **Encounter Campus Ministry** will conduct a **Bible study** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building Room 1.212 on the

Edinburg campus. There will be **free food**.

Tuesday 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. Members will hand out **stickers, posters** and **buttons**. The organization will meet again at the same time and place Wednesday.

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. in Health Affairs Building West Room 2.212 on the Edinburg campus and via Zoom.

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.

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**.

Environmental Awareness Club

The **Environmental Awareness Club** will discuss future events from noon to 2 p.m. in the University Ballroom lobby on the Edinburg campus.

Event Reservations

The **Center for Student Involvement** will hold an **informational session** regarding event scheduling from 1 to 2 p.m. via Zoom.

K.I.S.S. Fundraiser

The **Korean International Student Society** will sell **Asian snacks** and **ramen** from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the outdoor grounds on the Edinburg campus.

House of Fashion Meeting

The **House of Fashion** will hold a general meeting to discuss future events from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building South Room 161 on the Edinburg campus and via Zoom.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

The **Student Union** will host a pumpkin carving contest from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Student Unions on both campuses. Supplies will be provided, though they are limited. **VBucks** will be given as prizes.

Elliott Chemical Society

The **Elliott Chemical Society** will hold a general meeting and undergo risk management training from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom.

Delight Chapter Meetings

The **Delight Ministries** will meet from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.102 on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday

Engineering, Computer Science Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will hold a **Town Hall** from 10 to 11 a.m. in Music Science and Learning Center Room 1.112 on the Brownsville campus and from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday in Engineering Building Room 1.250 on the Edinburg campus. Students in the College of Engineering and Computer Science can discuss degrees, programs and internship opportunities.

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 in Edinburg.

Pop-Up Thrift Shop

House of Fashion will hold a thrift store from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. There will be clothes, books, magazines and other things.

Discovering Your Conflict Styles

The **Student Leadership Academy** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will conduct a workshop titled **Owls! and Turtles! and Sharks! Oh MY!: Discovering Your Conflict Styles** from 2 to 3 p.m. in Music Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and from 5 to 6 p.m. in the University Center Cenizo Room on the Edinburg campus.

Brownsville Accounting Meeting

The **Brownsville Accounting Association** will meet from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in Main Building Room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus.

Thursday

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**.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Sacrament

The **Catholic Student Association** will hold a **communion** from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Media Courtyard on the Edinburg campus.

Psychology Club Meeting

The **Psychology Club** will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.102 on the Edinburg campus.

Friday

RedRover Readers Training Workshop

The **RedRover Readers RGV** will hold a **workshop** for volunteers from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 111.

Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society

The **Pre-Medical Bio-Medical Society** will provide required training for members from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Business and Entrepreneurship Town Hall

The **Student Government Association** will hold a **Town Hall** from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.111. Students from the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship can discuss degrees, programs and internship opportunities.

Dance Workshop

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

NSLS Conference Day

The **National Society of Leadership and Success** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **conference** to teach students about their program from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Main Building Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

Club Badminton

Club Badminton will hold a meeting to teach members about risk management from 8 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. For questions or concerns, email brandon.tiu01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 28 and Oct. 5.



Sept. 28

11:52 a.m.: A UTRGV police officer met with a UTRGV student about a harassment report on the

Brownsville campus. The student said she is finalizing her divorce from her ex-husband, who is also a UTRGV student. She has informed him that she wants no further contact with him, but he has continued to show up outside her class in an attempt to speak to her. The case is under investigation.

12:33 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the UT Health RGV AHEC Primary Care in San Carlos in reference to a

man entering the building. The man was identified by witnesses to be the same man who was issued a criminal trespass warning before but was not in the area anymore. The case is under investigation.

5:08 p.m.: A staff member in the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus reported that a student had gone to the Financial Aid office, appeared to be distraught and made comments that worried the staff member. Officers later contacted the student via telephone who reported he was OK. The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office was contacted to assist in the welfare concern by checking several addresses on file, but contact with the student was not made.

Sept. 29

2:33 p.m.: A male student reported a sexual assault that occurred in February 2022 in Lot E-12 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

10:02 p.m.: An employee reported that, during an event, a student attempted to walk out of the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus, but mistook a window for a door and caused the window to break. UTRGV Facilities was notified, removed the excess glass and placed a work order to repair the window.

Oct. 3

8:11 p.m.: A student reported she found a USB on a table in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. To find its owner, she opened files on the USB but reported viewing a picture that

she believed to be child pornography. The USB and Library Computer were taken as evidence. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 4

2:23 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to UT Health RGV AHEC Primary Care in San Carlos in reference to a man with an active criminal trespass warning for the location being present. Upon the officer's arrival, the man was unable to be located. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 5

3:10 a.m.: A student reported two past incidents that involved a suspicious vehicle following her off campus in Edinburg.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez



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Breast cancer survivor describes battle



PHOTO COURTESY DANNA BAEZ

Danna Baez (from left), an exercise science freshman, her mother and breast cancer survivor Diana Garza and her sister Daphne Baez pose on a cruise ship last summer. Garza said after she beat cancer, she began to live her life differently by traveling with her daughters.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

A few months after losing her mother to breast cancer, Donna resident Diana Garza was diagnosed with stage zero of the disease at age 34 in May 2014.

The registered nurse and single mother of two said it was hard to receive the news of her diagnosis.

"Once [the doctor] told me I had cancer, I know he kept talking to me, but I just don't remember," she said. "To me, they never said anything. I decided not to tell my daughters or my dad until I knew a plan because I'm a single parent."

The first person Garza shared the news with was a friend who had a daughter in the same school as her daughters, Danna and Daphne Baez.

"[My friend's] daughter told the whole class and [my daughter] Daphne came

running off the bus crying and saying, 'Are you going to die, too?'" Garza said. "So, then I had to talk to them and said, 'I'm not going to die. We have to pray. We have to keep our faith.'"

She said she decided to never leave her daughters out no matter how hard the decision or

"I said, 'Look, Mommy is losing her breast but that doesn't stop me from being a woman. That doesn't define me [as] a woman. I'm still a woman, but I'm first your mother.'"

--Diana Garza
Donna resident and breast cancer survivor

the news were.

Danna Baez, an exercise science freshman, was 10 years old when her mom was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Baez was in shock when she

got the news.

"The things that were popping in my head was, like, 'Oh, is my mom going to die as well?'" she said. "I was young, so I didn't really [know] too much about cancer."

Baez's sister, Daphne, was 8 years old when her mom was diagnosed.

She said it was something unexpected for her.

"The first thing that came to me was, like, 'Are we going to have to attend another funeral? Was I going to grow up without a mom?'"

Garza said she was aware of the importance of self-examination.

"My mammogram was normal and my ultrasound was normal but, because I knew my body, I knew something was wrong and I had to seek the help of four doctors because the first three told me it was nothing," she said. "It was [not] until the

See **SURVIVOR**, Page 8

Through the lens of a telescope

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

A group of students in the UTRGV Department of Physics and Astronomy took their first research field trip to the University of Texas at Austin McDonald Observatory in West Texas with the help of a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Physics and Astronomy Assistant Professor Juan Madrid said he applied for a National Science Foundation program grant last February. This is the first year the department receives this grant and takes a field trip to the observatory.

Eight graduate and undergraduate students from the Physics and Astronomy Department participated in training sessions before taking the field trip, which took place Aug. 1 to 9.

Madrid explained the grant's purpose is to expose students in Hispanic-serving and historically Black institutions to high-end research facilities.

"The main point here is that the National Science Foundation recognizes the

staggering underrepresentation of Hispanics and Blacks in science in this country, and they have some lines of funding to improve that," Madrid said.

Students learned how to use a professional telescope and how to analyze data gathered on images collected from those telescopes.

Shahreaz Khan Faisal, a physics and astronomy graduate student, said he considered this a great learning experience.

"We actually learned what astronomers do, like, we always see those cool images, but we don't really know how they take those images and what goes behind those," Faisal said.

Rudy Morales, a physics senior, said one of the goals during the research was to analyze variable stars, which change in brightness regularly or irregularly over time. Morales explained that researching these stars involved making light curve graphs based on the images taken with the telescopes.

Madrid said the research is ongoing; thus, no discoveries have been made. He said they will get more information in a couple of months once the

See **OBSERVATORY**, Page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

UTRGV students Rudy Morales (from left), Bhawana Sedhai, Martell Valencia, Julia Chavez, Shahrear Khan Faisal, Huda Abbood, Cedar Garcia and Constantine Poulos visit the Hobby-Eberly Telescope at the University of Texas at Austin McDonald Observatory in West Texas. The physics and astronomy students visited the observatory Aug. 1 to 9.

New tech office in McAllen



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Zoho Corp. staff pose in the company's new office in McAllen, which currently employs over 30 employees.

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

Zoho, a private software development company, opened a new location in McAllen in April as part of the company's transnational localism belief. This is the third office the company opens in Texas and the first in the Rio Grande Valley.

The company has been in business for over 25 years, according to an

Oct. 3 email sent by Veronica Yunes, corporate communications specialist for Zoho.

Transnational localism is the belief that Zoho does not need to be based in major metropolitan areas, Yunes wrote.

"Zoho believes that people shouldn't be forced to leave their hometowns for larger, more congested, and expensive cities to find great jobs offering a global

perspective," she wrote. "We believe transnational localism has benefited many Zoho employees."

Tejas Gadhia, head of the Zoho McAllen office, said to open a new office, the company looks at what is considered to be a Tier II city and make sure the local area grows with the company and vice versa.

Gadhia said the company decided to open an office in McAllen based on the number of applications being received in the area.

"We were already looking to expand into places outside of Austin," he said. "And McAllen ended up kind of making the cut based on a bunch of different criteria that we looked at."

McAllen checks all the boxes in the criteria with its high availability of talent, multiple colleges, growth potential and distinct cultural identity, Yunes wrote in the email.

The McAllen office employs over 30 employees.

"I would say our hiring is a little bit different than others," Gadhia said. "For us, everybody starts out more or less [at the] entry level in the sense that they're new to the company, and you kind of have to build your credibility, your reputation and kind of create the influence that you want at the company. And so, for us, when

it comes to hiring, it's really just the hunger for knowledge is probably the No. 1 way I'd say it."

Yunes has been with the company since February.

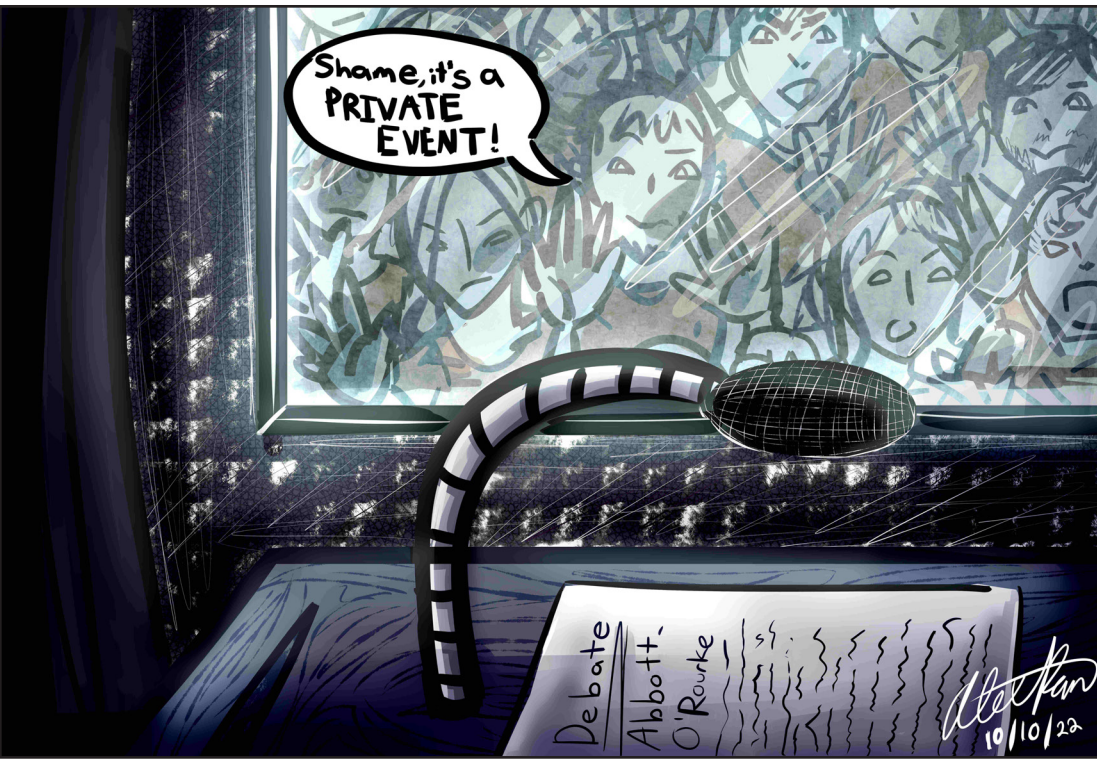
"I saw a job opening on Indeed, and all it said was, 'Learn corporate communication skills in a tech company,' and that was enough for me to apply because I love the field of communications," she said. "I've never worked for a private company ... which is really interesting because you don't find a lot of tech companies that are private. So I applied, and, luckily, I got the job, thankfully. It wasn't easy. I had to prove myself."

Yunes said transnational localism has impacted her life in a positive way.

"I love that my job has such a global perspective," she said. "Typically, this job is something, I think, that you would find in a tech hub like Silicon Valley, [a region in California]. But, because of Zoho's belief in transnational localism, they don't feel that to be successful they need to be in, you know, in those hub areas."

Asked if there are other offices that will open soon, Gadhia replied that their goal for now is to build up the office in McAllen.

For more information on Zoho visit, zohocorp.com.



Don't weaponize religion



Matthew Gonzalez
SPORTS REPORTER

Religion has been a cornerstone of society in every corner of the world for millennia.

Most religions feature love, kindness, tolerance and understanding as central parts of their foundations but if history has shown us one thing, it's that religion is one of the greatest weapons in human history.

In recent history, Christian texts have been used as an excuse to harm and mistreat members of the LGBTQ+ community.

For years, Leviticus: 18:22 has echoed in my head and those of others for years, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." These words have been used to justify years of suffering for me and others.

The Trevor Project, which provides 24/7 crisis support services to young LGBTQ+ people, estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ youth ages 13 to 24 seriously consider suicide each year in the U.S.--and at least one attempts suicide every 45 seconds, according to its website.

A story that has stuck with me

since I was in middle school is the suicide of Bobby Griffith.

Griffith died by suicide due to his mother Mary Griffith's religious intolerance. When his mother discovered he was gay, she would preach to him night and day that being who he was, was wrong.

On Aug. 27, 1983, he climbed onto a freeway overpass and jumped into the path of an 18-wheeler, which killed him instantly.

I first saw his story in the movie "Prayers for Bobby" in sixth grade and when I saw it, I realized for the first time in my life that being who I was, was wrong.

I tried so hard to fit in and be "normal," but no matter what, the way I felt never changed.

I tried so hard to fit in and be "normal," but no matter what, the way I felt never changed.

Like Griffith, I was afraid to be who I truly was, so I knew I had to keep who I was a secret from my family.

I confided in friends I trusted but toward the end of eighth grade, I was "outed."

At first, only the school knew, but one day the counselor called me to her office saying she wanted to help me. She prayed for me to feel better but that night she called my dad and told him I was gay.

I was working in the backyard

when she called him.

He asked me what the counselor was talking about and I had no choice but to tell the truth.

With tears going down my face and in my mind wondering where I was going to sleep that night because I was certain that he was going to kick me out, my father hugged me and said it was OK.

The next day the counselor called my mom as well.

It's happening again, I thought, but my mother told me the same thing.

It turns out I had nothing to fear, but for many millions of LGBTQ+ teens, this is not the case. They either get sent to conversion therapy or to church to be "fixed."

My fear of what was going to happen to me is the direct result of what I have heard in church.

No one should have to be ashamed of who they are no matter what.

Society has gotten rid of many parts of its religious texts to fit what is considered acceptable for the time period.

We have pride parades, a month dedicated to the LGBTQ+ society and even laws to protect our rights.

We have to change what we preach if we want to truly end the pointless hate thrown at us. If we do this, we never have to hear stories like Griffith's again.

For LGBTQ+ individuals contemplating suicide or looking for any other resources, call 988 or visit thetrevorproject.org/get-help/.



Should students get mental health days off from school?



Gabrielle Garza
business sophomore

"Yes. College is really stressful sometimes. Personally, I'm taking some entry-level courses that are extremely hard for absolutely no reason, and I feel like I see a lot of my friends and people around me just simply crash because they're under so much stress continuously.

So, I do think it would be necessary to have just one or two days off a month to, like, recover."

"Definitely. I'm in, specifically, the [physician assistant] program and that itself is stressful enough. So, if we can just get, like, one day to, like, [address] everything, that'd be fantastic."



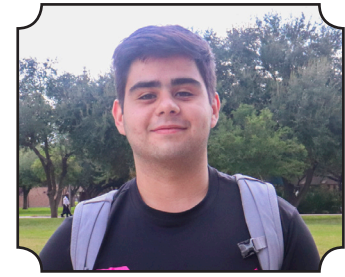
Stephanie Alarcon
physician assistant studies graduate student



Mariano Martinez
estudiante de segundo año en ingeniería de mecánica

"Yo creo que sí porque entre más estrés se va acumulando, menos productivos [van a] ser los estudiantes. Así que tienen que descansar."

"Creo que sí porque mucha gente no sabe lo que [están] pasando, mucha tarea que tienen o también los problemas familiares [que muchos] de los estudiantes tienen y eso puede crear muchos problemas también con los problemas en la escuela. No [sabemos] lo que mucha gente está pasando."



Jesus Flores
estudiante de segundo año en ingeniería de mecánica

--Compiled by Abigail Ollave
--Photos by Fatima Gamez

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE YOUR FLIGHT DELAYED BY 8 HOURS OR LOSE YOUR LUGGAGE?

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Flight delayed

8%
Lose luggage

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Sobreviviente de cáncer de mama describe batalla

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Unos meses después de perder a su madre por cáncer de mama, Diana Garza, residente de Donna, fue diagnosticada con la etapa cero de la enfermedad a los 34 años en mayo de 2014.

La enfermera registrada y madre soltera de dos hijas dijo que fue difícil recibir la noticia de su diagnóstico.

“Una vez [el médico] me dijo que tenía cáncer, sé que siguió hablándome, pero no lo recuerdo”, dijo. “Para mí, nunca dijeron nada. Decidí no decirles a mis hijas ni a mi papá hasta que supiera un plan porque soy madre soltera”.

La primera persona con la que Garza compartió la noticia fue una amiga que tenía una hija en la misma escuela que sus hijas, Danna y Daphne Baez.

“La hija [de mi amiga] le dijo a toda la clase y [mi hija] Daphne salió corriendo del autobús llorando y diciendo, ‘¿Tú también te vas a morir?’”, dijo Garza. “Entonces, tuve que hablar con ellas y les dije, ‘No me voy a morir. Tenemos que orar. Tenemos que mantener nuestra fe’”.

Ella dijo que decidió nunca dejar a sus hijas fuera sin importar cuál fuera la decisión o la noticia.

Danna Baez, estudiante de primer año de ciencias del ejercicio, tenía 10 años cuando a su madre le diagnosticaron cáncer de mama.

Báez estaba en estado de shock cuando recibió la noticia.

“Las cosas que me venían a la cabeza eran, ‘¿Oh, mi mamá también va a morir?’”, dijo. “Yo era joven, así que realmente no [sabía] mucho sobre el cáncer”.

La hermana de Baez, Daphne, tenía 8 años cuando su madre fue diagnosticada.

Ella dijo que fue algo inesperado para ella.

“Lo primero que se me

ocurrió fue, como, ‘¿Vamos a tener que asistir a otro funeral? ¿Voy a crecer sin una madre?’”

Garza dijo que estaba consciente de la importancia del autoexamen.

“Mi mamografía fue normal y mi ultrasonido fue normal, pero como conocía mi cuerpo, supe que algo andaba mal y tuve que buscar la ayuda de cuatro médicos porque los tres primeros me dijeron que no era nada”, dijo. “[No] fue hasta el cuarto médico [que] encontraron el tumor a través de una resonancia magnética. ... Tienes que mirarte en el espejo, no solo sentir sino saber el color [y] el tamaño”.

El Dr. Vijian Dhevan, profesor asistente en el Departamento de Cirugía de la Facultad de Medicina de UTRGV y vicepresidente de Asuntos Clínicos, dijo que el autoexamen es importante.

“Soy un gran defensor de los autoexámenes de los senos para conocer tu propio cuerpo”, dijo Dhevan. “Una vez al mes, cuando te estés duchando, solo mírate. Todo comienza con el paciente mirando su cuerpo, tocándolo, examinándolo. Eso no cuesta dinero”.

Dijo que los hombres también pueden desarrollar cáncer de mama.

“La gente piensa, ‘Oh, el cáncer de mama es solo para mujeres’”, dijo Dhevan. “Ese no es el caso. Los hombres pueden desarrollar cáncer de mama. El problema con los hombres que desarrollan cáncer de mama es que los hombres pensamos: ‘Oh, no, este cáncer de mama es una enfermedad de mujeres. Esto no es nada de lo que siento’. Luego esperamos y cuando realmente vamos a buscar atención, ya es demasiado tarde”.

“Les dije: ‘Mira, Mami está perdiendo su pecho, pero eso no me impide ser mujer. Eso no me define [como] una mujer. Sigo siendo una mujer pero primero soy tu madre’”.

--Diana Garza

residente de Donna y sobreviviente de cáncer

“Pasé por un proceso en el que me dejaron expansores”, dijo. “Son bolsitas dentro de la piel y cada dos semanas las extendían [y] ponían



FOTO CORTESÍA DANNA BAEZ

Danna Baez (de izquierda), estudiante de primer año de ciencias del ejercicio, su madre y sobreviviente de cáncer de mama Diana Garza y su hermana Daphne Baez posan en un crucero el verano pasado. Garza dijo que después de vencer al cáncer, comenzó a vivir su vida de manera diferente al viajar con sus hijas.

El alienta a las mujeres a comenzar a hacerse pruebas de detección de cáncer de mama a los 40 años.

Garza dijo que optó por una mastectomía doble con una reconstrucción en agosto de 2014.

un poco de agua, solución salina, y luego se hacía el procedimiento final para colocar los implantes mamarios en diciembre de 2014”.

Debido a que fue diagnosticada a tiempo, Garza no tuvo que someterse a quimioterapia o radiación. Ella dijo que fue difícil perder sus senos.

“Tenía que ser fuerte”, dijo Garza. “Les dije: ‘Mira, Mami está perdiendo su pecho, pero eso no me impide ser mujer. Eso no me define [como] una mujer. Sigo siendo una mujer

pero primero soy tu madre. Entonces, tengo que hacer esto porque si me quito el seno, tengo más posibilidades de vivir”.

La Fundación del Cáncer del Renacimiento (*Renaissance Cancer Foundation*) en Edinburg la ayudó económicamente.

“Son la única asociación en el Valle [del Río Grande] que los fondos van a los pacientes, así que pagaron mi hotel por dos semanas”, dijo Garza. “También pagaron mi primera visita al oncólogo porque no tenía seguro”.

Dijo que tenía miedo de que su cáncer avanzara y no pudiera pagar su tratamiento.

“Llamé a MD Anderson [Centro de Cáncer en Houston] y dije: ‘¿Cuánto cobran?’”, dijo Garza. “Me pidieron \$34,000 como pago inicial. ... No tenía seguro médico y dije, ‘¿Me voy a morir?’ Pero luego llamé a la Fundación del Cáncer [y] me orientaron [y] me enviaron a Medicaid para el cáncer de mama”.

El 30 de septiembre, Garza completo ocho años de estar

libre de cáncer.

Daphne dijo que era doloroso no poder estar con su madre.

“Me gustaría acurrucarme con ella y estar allí con ella, pero no pudimos porque incluso sentarnos en el sofá la lastimaba”, dijo Daphne. “Creo que lo que me ayudó mucho fue que pude ayudarla. Limpié su drenaje. Registre cuánto drenaba y todo”.

Ella recuerda la noche antes de la cirugía de su madre.

“Básicamente vivimos en un hotel por un tiempo y recuerdo que fuimos a Target la noche antes de su cirugía y fue como, ‘Bueno, ¿Es esta la última [vez] que ella me iba a comprar [algo]?’ Porque, obviamente, hay riesgos en una cirugía”.

Baez anima a la comunidad a crear conciencia sobre el cáncer de mama.

“Podemos recaudar fondos para más investigación porque muchas mujeres en los Estados Unidos son diagnosticadas todos los días”, dijo. “Vi [que] cada dos minutos una mujer descubre que tiene cáncer de mama. Creo que para crear conciencia, necesitamos recaudar fondos, hacer más caminatas. También tenemos que hacer más eventos [para] informar a las mujeres”.

En conmemoración al Mes de Concientización sobre el Cáncer de Mama y para promover los recursos de bienestar en el campus, el Centro de Recreación de la Universidad organizará una Fiesta de Baile Zumba y Exposición de Bienestar de 6 a 7:30 p.m. el 20 de octubre en el campus de Edinburg. Los primeros 100 asistentes recibirán una camiseta del evento de cortesía. El evento está abierto al público.

Para obtener más información, envíe un correo electrónico a recfitness@utrgv.edu.



'Frankenstein': an exploration of humanity

Omar E. Zapata

A&E REPORTER

The UTRGV Theatre Department's production of "Frankenstein" is not just the typical Halloween play. It also explores life, death, identity and what it means to be human.

Directed by theatre Associate Professor Brian Warren, the play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

The play is based on the novel by Mary Shelley and adapted by Joshua Kennedy and Marco Muñoz.

"Reading the novel is always good," Warren said. "It's a classic for a reason, what it says about ... humanity, and why we do what we do. ... I found this play by knowing my friend, Joshua Kennedy ... and I liked his version that we're doing."

Kennedy, an English graduate student playing Victor Frankenstein, told The Rider he thinks his adaptation is "pretty faithful" to the novel.

"We get rid of a lot of the ... stuff that I consider boring and ... I think fans of the book will appreciate how faithful it is," he said.

Kennedy said some of the humor that is not in the book will be in the play and pays tribute to certain films of



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Educational leadership graduate student Victoria Pope, who plays Frankenstein's mother and the Creature's bride, and theatre performance senior Gerald Scot Johnson, the Creature, run their lines last Tuesday in preparation for the UTRGV Theatre Department's production of "Frankenstein."

"Frankenstein" that have come before.

"I've been waiting to do this since I was 4 years old," he said. "When I was 4, I saw 'Young Frankenstein' with Gene Wilder. ... So, I've been waiting all of my life to play this. ... I can't help but get into character when I have such an awesome creature screaming and throwing himself around and such a great cast."

Theatre performance senior Gerald Scot Johnson, who plays the Creature, told The Rider the show has a perfect balance.

"You will laugh and cry," he said. "It's a story between a father and a son. It's a story about neglect, abandonment and hope."

In his second season performing with the Theatre Department, Johnson said

he finds his character development interesting as he goes from a position of narrating when he is a master of his body to the earlier stages of the Creature's being.

Victoria Pope, an educational leadership graduate student, is portraying two characters in the play, the Creature's Bride and the mother of Frankenstein.

"The mother, she comes out, and she's a ghost," Pope said. "So, I kind of have to, you know, separate myself, my humanity, and just kind of turn into this sort of floating figure that is kind of shaming my son ... and making him feel guilty. ... And the bride is just really stepping out of that humanity and becoming this lifeless entity that is created from bits and pieces of other people."

She said playing the bride has a lot of focus on making faces, sounds and "creeping [herself] out."

Warren said attendees will also see a lot of added technical elements.

"We have a lot of multimedia effects, like projections. ... That'll help, you know, how most people are used to movies," he said. "Well, this is like a movie effect that we are going to use."

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for senior citizens and veterans, and \$5 for faculty, staff and students with a UTRGV ID. Tickets will be sold at the box office one hour before showtime.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez

ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-October is going to be the highlight of the year for you. Be optimistic and hopeful that things will turn out the way you want them to. Remember that luck is on your side. Do not bring any negative energy by thinking wrongly of things or it will only interrupt the current that is meant to happen.

Leo-Despite your relationship status, love is in the air this month. Pay attention to little phrases or gestures others use around you; they might be trying to hint something to you. Do not take affection lightly; appreciate it for what it is.

Sagittarius-Although things may be coming at you all at once, try to remain calm by taking it step-by-step. Find some time to take a break and de-stress from all of your issues. Use the time wisely by enjoying yourself and leaving stressors behind. After you've recharged, you'll be ready to tackle your work from a new perspective.

Libra-Often you find yourself discussing things you want to be doing instead of actually doing them. Obstacles are always going to be an issue. Do not let them limit you. Work around any barriers that stand in the way to feel content with where you are standing.

Gemini-Major changes in your life are happening quickly. Take a moment to appreciate how far you've come and be proud of your achievements. Sometimes, people forget to recognize their value, which leads to having low self-esteem. Learn to love the person you are becoming every day.

Aquarius-This week will reveal the answers you've been waiting for. Things may seem out of place right now but consider that, soon, you'll know what to do. It always needs to get worse before things get better. The universe works in reverse at times but will always get you to where you need to be.

Scorpio-The universe is proud of your progress and will grant you additional fortune when the right time comes. Until then, keep working toward your goals for your own personal growth and career. This will benefit you but will also help create a portfolio for when needed.

Pisces-Taking a vacation can be a good way to ease the mind in times of hardships. In spite of that, we need to face our struggles and fears head on. After you have cried it out, decide what the next steps toward that situation. Don't skip to the good parts without working through the hard ones first.

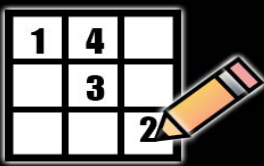
Cancer-If a friendship or relationship does not work out the way you had pictured, be OK with it. Avoid putting in too much effort when the other person isn't. Always know your worth first before making someone else feel that they are worthy. Be in charge of your own value and not others.

Taurus-After avoiding the situation for so long, the time has come to face it. Be honest with yourself and decide if you are ready to move forward. Being stagnant will only have you going in circles and will not let you progress. Be who you want to be and rise above before it is too late.

Virgo-Being vulnerable with others can be difficult, especially when you struggle to trust people. Instead of bottling up emotions, try expressing them to others. Small steps toward progress will take you a long way. Sometimes all we need to feel better is to tell someone.

Capricorn-Halloween movies with hot cocoa is where you'll find yourself this month. Take these moments to wind down and refresh yourself. It is important to take some type of self-care after long days, but do not let that consume all of your time. Prioritize what is necessary first, then do something fun.

Sudoku



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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña



Athlete of the week

Will Johnston



Matthew Gonzalez/THE RIDER

Will Johnston, a multidisciplinary studies sophomore from Sydney, Australia, is a point guard on the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team. This is his first season on the team.

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

A: "In all my downtime, I like to just relax and hang out with friends and family. And, you know, I like watching TV shows. When I'm back home, I enjoy going to the beach."

Q: What is your favorite show/movie?

A: "Right now, I'm watching 'Breaking Bad,' but I heard that new Jeffrey Dahmer series is pretty good."

Q: What are you most looking forward to in your first season with the team?

A: "I mean, winning, you know. That's the main goal. I think everyone's coming in here to win. And it's been a while since our team has won anything significant from the banner situation. So, I really want to see us put up a banner and make it to the [Western Athletic Conference] tournament."

Q: What do you want to say to anyone feeling homesick?

A: "I mean, that's something that I struggle with, being away, but I'd say just keep working at it and just try and focus on the things that you enjoy. You know, for me, I just like being in the gym and hanging around with my teammates and stuff. I think that helps me being away from home."

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

A: "Definitely my family. My mom and dad, they've sacrificed a lot to help me get into the position I am today. And, if I was thinking, like, role models in the sporting world, I'd probably say someone like [Portland Trail Blazers point guard] Damian Lillard, just the way his personality and the way he handles himself on the court. I think that's how I want to be like when I play."

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: "I love fried chicken. I've kind of been exploring down here in the [Rio Grande] Valley. I've kind of tried a bit of Mexican food and I really enjoyed it. So I, probably, say fried chicken is up there."

--Compiled by Matthew Gonzalez

Hispanic athletes' perspective

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Jose Medina
THE RIDER

Isaac Ochoa, a UTRGV Men's Soccer junior midfielder from the Hidalgo County city of Peñitas, is proud of his Hispanic heritage.

Ochoa was asked if being Hispanic has affected his pursuit of athletics.

"Yeah, it has affected my pursuit of athletics in a positive way," he said. "I can say that just being Hispanic, when you're playing against someone, you tell yourself, 'This guy is not beating me.'"

"It's that winning mentality and just going after it every day and outworking your opponent at all times."

Ochoa said being a Hispanic athlete playing Division 1 sports "feels really good, especially being the first one in my family playing Division 1."

"It feels amazing because not many people do it," he said.

"They think only people from different nationalities can do it. But we're here to show them that Mexicans can do it as well."

Asked what being Hispanic means to him, Ochoa replied, "Being Hispanic, to me, means a lot from growing up with my grandparents and just, basically, the way you're raised and the morals and everything that's taught to you. ... It has impacted me in a positive way."

Ochoa hopes to keep playing soccer and go professional but knows it is

always good to have a degree as a backup, saying coaches instill the value of an education in them as well.

UTRGV freshman defender Juan Pablo Gonzalez, of Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico, said he was raised in a Catholic home and with other Mexican traditions.

"Since I was 3 years old, I've been playing soccer," Gonzalez said.

He was asked if being Hispanic affected his pursuit of athletics.

"Yes, I think every country has their

Gonzalez said he is proud of being Hispanic.

"Like I said, every country has their culture and way of looking at life, and I feel proud of being Mexican, and having Mexican blood in me," he said. "Since I was very young, I was raised to do everything right and to always take responsibility for everything you do."

Gonzalez said his objective when coming to UTRGV was to become a professional soccer player. He said

education is still important to him and believes it makes you more complete and forges you into a better person, overall.

Aliyah Castillo, of Brownsville, is a freshman runner on the UTRGV Women's Track & Field Team who started sports at a young age.

"I started karate when I was 2," Castillo said. "My mom was really like, 'You have to be good.'

You have to be good.' Everybody expected a lot. I mean, that's what Hispanic parents want: better outcomes than they had."

She said being Hispanic means "working hard."

"I think Hispanics are strong ... and caring," Castillo said. "I think they're always there for each other."

Asked what her plans for the future are, she replied, "I want to major in civil engineering and, eventually, start my own business. And then, maybe, get into architecture."

"Like I said, every country has their culture and way of looking at life, and I feel proud of being Mexican, and having Mexican blood in me..."

--Juan Pablo Gonzalez

UTRGV Men's Soccer freshman defender

own culture when practicing sports," Gonzalez replied. "In Mexico, we had another mentality, another way of working. Both are good, but me being from Mexico, it's a totally different process from the way used in Mexico."

Asked how he felt being a Hispanic Division 1 athlete, he replied, "First of all, [I am] proud of the effort I've been making during my football and academic career, because both go hand [in] hand here."



ELECTION*Continued from Page 1*

abortion, the issue has become highly motivating to voters. A recent Monmouth poll found that 56% of U.S. voters found the issue to be either extremely or very important.

Texas laws currently ban abortion unless the life of the mother is at risk.

"I think that the idea among Democrats ... that this would be a mobilizing issue and would lead people to the polls, is quite true," Altema-McNeely said.

Asked about the issue of abortion, Puente replied, "The government is not prioritizing a woman's health and life, and women are having to go to extremes to access abortion care."

Other organizations on campus hold a different view.

"We ... support that a life is a life, and that should not be taken away from the womb," UTRGV Brownsville Turning Point USA President Celena Cisneros said.

Turning Point USA is a conservative organization that established a chapter at UTRGV in November 2020.

Abortion is not the only motivating issue on the ballot for the upcoming election.

"The one thing that is pretty important for us ... is immigration," College Democrats member Javier Cantu Villarreal said. "Because most of us are immigrants, we are proud of who we are and we want candidates that we support to ... yes, make it legal, but also make it humane."

Cisneros spoke of immigration from a different perspective.

"Coming from the daughter of a Border Patrol agent ... [the media] ... put everything out of proportion," she said. "All I see are these [Border Patrol] agents going out, protecting their community."

Asked about the possibility of a rise in conservatism in the Rio Grande Valley, Altema-McNeely spoke about law enforcement.

"If you are looking exclusively at

the Valley, you also might note some emphasis on the importance of law enforcement jobs and occupations," she said.

While this emphasis on law enforcement might be a factor, Altema-McNeely said she was skeptical of this rightward shift in the Valley.

"It's still important to note that a majority of Hispanics identify as Democrat," she said.

Puente agreed.

"The RGV has been a Democratic stronghold, but something that has also been recognized is that Democrats don't just want to keep South Texas blue," Puente said. "They also want to strengthen the blue and we are seeing that with great candidates all across the board."

The rise of conservatism in the Valley has caused some criticism of the national Democratic Party.

"It seems that people have been realizing that we are not simply going to

vote for somebody because they hold a D or because they hold a R," Cantu said. "No, it's the person who is going to talk to me first."

Altema-McNeely said: "It's worth highlighting the efforts that Republicans have been putting ... into these Valleywide races, unlike the Democrats. The national Democratic leadership just wasn't very visible here."

Leaders of the College Democrats and Turning Point USA said win or lose, the work will not end after Election Day.

"No matter what happens, we'll always be there for each other," Cisneros said. "We'll be there for the community."

Puente agreed.

"Community work doesn't only stop and start during election season," he said. "The fight for abortion isn't going to stop on Election Day."

The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday. Early voting on both UTRGV campuses begins Oct. 23 and ends Nov. 4. Election Day is Nov. 8.

RENOVATIONS*Continued from Page 1*

And then, also, we're proposing a new, large 1,600-square-foot pavilion."

New visitor amenities could also be created if the grounds expanded into a neighboring property, a possibility being explored by a subcommittee of zoo and Brownsville Independent School District representatives.

The expansion would create room for a new entrance as well as retail, dining,

office spaces and a four-story parking garage that would accommodate the zoo, resaca retail and Mitte Cultural District.

A large African savannah exhibit featuring animals, such as giraffes and cheetahs, and a 125-room themed hotel is also proposed for this area. The hotel would provide rooftop views of many exhibits.

"This is something, for me, certainly, [that] was a big priority, investing in the zoo," Mayor Trey Mendez said. "It's our biggest tourism driver. It's something I

think is absolutely necessary, not just to drive growth but to continue to promote quality of life and other opportunities in the city. So, with that, I'm glad to make a motion to acknowledge and support the zoo master plan."

District 2 City Commissioner Jessica Tetreau said one thing she loves about the zoo is the nostalgia and asked Burchfield to protect the iconic lion drinking fountain and to "display it well."

District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizaña asked about the next

step in creating a capital campaign for the project.

"That's gonna be the next target," Mendez said about the next step. "How to figure out how to get there, and then also, see if there's any opportunities for any partnerships with any other private entities regarding the development on the other side."

He said there are some big opportunities they can work on within the current footprint of the zoo in the meantime.

CAREER*Continued from Page 1*

discovering who they are and how they want to show up in professional spaces."

The Career Center also provides internship opportunities to students as early as freshman year, providing valuable experiential learning.

If students are interested in signing up for an internship, Jackson recommends making an appointment during walk-ins or scheduling a meeting with their adviser.

"A lot of the times, when students are interested in the internship, that's just the first step," she said. "But we want to make sure that they are effectively articulating the best of who they are."

Students who are unsure where to begin or want to update their resume, the Career Center can assist.

Jackson said that no experience is too small to place on a resume.

"Never be dismissive," she said. "I

discourage students from saying, 'It was just this,' because I think that minimizes the experiences. Everything that students do as early as [age] 14, 15, those are building blocks and foundations. ... So we don't want to dismiss that."

If a student requires professional attire for an interview or a specific job, the department provides a Career Closet from which students can select a few pieces of clothing for free.

Students can browse pictures of clothing, including descriptions of color and style, on the closet's online website. All they have to do is sign up and request the items, and the clothes will be ready to pick up in Edinburg or Brownsville.

Apart from academic advisers, career advisers at the center can help guide students and provide them with suggestions and options for their career path.

The department also hosts career fairs where students can explore different job

opportunities and educate themselves and companies can recruit.

Ronnie Garcia, associate director of Employer Relations, provided a couple of tips for attending the fairs, such as bringing resumes to hand out as well as making connections.

"If you're lost ... you'll see people from the Career Center there," Garcia said. "Ask them, like, 'Hey, I'm an art major. Who do you suggest I connect with?' And even practice with them, like, 'OK, how do I introduce myself?' We're here to make sure that you feel comfortable and you're successful."

The Graduate and Professional School Fair will take place from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 2 via Zoom. Students will be able to have one-on-one conversations with different graduate school recruiters.

"They can kind of learn about when's the deadline to apply, what's financial aid look like for graduate college," Garcia said. "Is there, like, a GMAT or MCAT

score that's required to get admittance. Things like that."

The Career Center will host a Teachers Job Expo from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 10 in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Nov. 11 in the UREC practice gym on the Edinburg campus.

The virtual Health Professionals and Nursing Career Expo will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 22.

For all fairs, students and alumni can preregister and view lists of organizations on Handshake.

Jackson said the Career Center supports all students and alumni.

The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with separate drop-in hours found on its website.

The department is located in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and Student Academic Center Room 2.101 on the Edinburg campus.

SURVIVOR*Continued from Page 3*

fourth doctor [that] they found the tumor through an MRI. ... You have to look [at] yourself in the mirror, not just feel but know the color [and] the size."

Dr. Vijian Dhevan, an assistant professor in the UTRGV School of Medicine Department of Surgery and vice chairman of Clinical Affairs, said self-examination is important.

"I'm a big proponent of self-breast exams, to know your own body," Dhevan said. "Once a month, when you are showering, just check yourself. It all starts with the patient just taking a look at their body, touching their body, examining their body. That doesn't cost any money."

He said men can develop breast cancer, too.

"People think, 'Oh, breast cancer is just for women,'" Dhevan said. "That's not the case. Men can develop breast cancer. The problem with men developing breast cancer is we men think, 'Oh, no, this breast cancer is a woman's disease. This is nothing that I feel.' Then we wait and

by the time we actually go seek care, it's too late."

He encourages women to start breast cancer screening at age 40.

Garza said she opted for a double mastectomy with a reconstruction in August 2014.

"I went through a process where they left me expanders," she said. "They are little bags inside your skin and every two weeks they would expand them [and] they would put some water, saline, and then the final procedure was done to get breast implants in December of 2014."

Because she was diagnosed in time, Garza did not have to go through chemotherapy or radiation.

She said it was hard to lose her breasts.

"I had to be strong," Garza said. "I said, 'Look, Mommy is losing her breast but that doesn't stop me from being a woman. That doesn't define me [as] a woman. I'm still a woman, but I'm first your mother. So, I have to do this because if I remove my breast it gives me a bigger chance to live.'"

The Renaissance Cancer Foundation in Edinburg helped her financially.

"They are the only association in the

[Rio Grande] Valley that the funds go to the patients, so they paid for my hotel for two weeks," Garza said. "They also paid for my first oncologist visit because I didn't have insurance."

She said she was scared her cancer would advance and she would not be able to pay for her treatment.

"I called MD Anderson [Cancer Center in Houston] and I said, 'How much do you charge?'" Garza said. "They asked me for \$34,000 as down payment. ... I didn't have health insurance and I said, 'Am I gonna die?' But then I called the Cancer Foundation [and] they guided me [and] sent me to Medicaid for breast cancer."

On Sept. 30, Garza marked eight years of being cancer-free.

Daphne said it was painful not being able to be with her mother.

"I would want to cuddle with her and be there with her but we couldn't because even sitting on the couch would hurt her," Daphne said. "I think what helped me a lot was that I was able to help her. I cleaned her drainage. I charted how much she drained out and everything."

She remembers the night before her

mother's surgery.

"We basically lived in a hotel for a while and I remember we went to Target the night before her surgery and it's, like, 'Well, is this the last [time] that she was going to buy me [something]?' Because, obviously, there are risks in a surgery."

Baez encourages the community to raise awareness about breast cancer.

"We can fundraise for more research because a lot of women in America get diagnosed every day," she said. "I saw [that] every two minutes a woman finds out they have breast cancer. I think to spread awareness, we need to do fundraisers, do more walks. We also have to do more events [to] inform women."

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to promote wellness resources on campus, the University Recreation Center will host a Zumba Dance Party & Wellness Expo from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 20 on the Edinburg campus. The first 100 attendees will receive a complimentary event T-shirt. The event is open to the public. For more information, email recfitness@utrgv.edu.

OBSERVATORY*Continued from Page 3*

students finalize their data analysis.

Besides research, the students toured the telescopes they did not use. Faisal said the group saw a 10-meter optical telescope and learned about spectroscopy, which is the study of light

and electromagnetic radiation.

Madrid described the field trip as a mind-changing opportunity for the students.

"One thing is to see, you know, pictures and PowerPoint; another thing is to walk into a telescope ... working there, feel that it is so dark, cold, in the middle of summer in Texas," he said. "You

cannot have all those experiences in the classroom, really."

Faisal said the field trip will help students who have an interest in astronomy to understand in detail the job of an astronomer.

"If you are planning to do astronomy in the future or if you're not sure whether you like it or not, I think this trip will

really help," he said. "If you're planning to choose it as a career option, I think this would be a really good experience to see ... what astronomers do and how they do it."

Madrid, who plans to do this activity next summer, said the \$10,000 grant will be used for the next two years for the same kind of research trip to the McDonald Observatory.