



THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monday Spooky Pop Up Thrift Shop

The House of Fashion will hold a Spooky Pop Up Thrift

Shop from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Costume Contest

The Student Union will host a costume contest from 2 to 3 p.m. in Student Union Room 1.300 on the Edinburg campus. Only enrolled students may compete. There will be cash prizes: \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$75 for third place.

Tuesday Meet the Deans

The Student Government Association will host a meeting with the college and school deans

so students can ask questions about opportunities in their field from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday Developing Intercultural Competence

The Student Leadership Academy will conduct a workshop on cultural awareness from 2 to 3 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. The workshop will also take place from 5 to 6 p.m. in the University Center Cenizo Room on the Edinburg campus.

Coffee and Careers

Students can ask the Career Center about careers from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom.

Día De Los Muertos Dance

The Student Union, the Residence Hall Association and UREC Sports Clubs will host a dance to celebrate Día De Los Muertos from 7 to 11

p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. There will be free T-shirts for the first 250 students who attend. There will be free food. To reserve a free T-shirt and dinner box, RSVP via V Link. For more information, email nayeli.e.garcia01@utrgv.edu or home@utrgv.edu.

Thursday Club Racquetball Paper Plane Game

Club Racquetball will hold a game booth where money will be exchanged for the chance to win a prize from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Medical Student Meeting

The American Medical Student Association will meet to discuss upcoming events from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Friday Leadership Seminar

The Freshman Leadership Academy

and the Center for Student Involvement will hold a leadership seminar from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the University Center Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus in Salón Gardenia on the Brownsville campus.

Saturday Beach Cleanup

The Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity and Sorority Life will host a beach cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon at South Padre Island Beach Access 3.

Learn and Serve

The Palm Valley Animal Society and the Center For Student Involvement will host a volunteering opportunity from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2501 W. Trenton Road in Edinburg. Volunteers can sign up via Engagement Zone. For questions and accommodations, email volunteer@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS



Oct. 21

9:49 a.m.: An employee reported a possibly intoxicated man used the bathroom and then fell asleep in the lobby of the

UT Health RGV Orthopedics & Sports Medicine clinic in Weslaco. Before UTRGV and Weslaco police officers arrived, the man woke up and left the area. Officers checked the surrounding areas but did not locate him.

5:04 p.m.: UTRGV officers were dispatched to the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus in reference to a disturbance involving a male student resident and a non-affiliated man. Officers contacted both subjects and it was determined that no crime had been committed. A

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 21 and 26.

written criminal trespass warning was issued to the non-affiliated man at the request of Residence Life staff.

12:43 p.m.: Officers responded to the University Library on the Edinburg campus in reference to a fire alarm. Upon arrival, they detected a strong odor of smoke emitting from the kitchen at Jazzman's Café. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived and determined the smoke was caused by an electric oven. The fire department deemed the building safe for reentry.

2:07 p.m.: A staff member reported that she found her vehicle's rear window shattered after it was left parked in Lot E-29 on the Edinburg campus. Camera footage was reviewed and showed grounds maintenance staff cutting grass in the area.

Oct. 25

8:32 a.m.: A staff member reported

a window in the Team Based Learning Center Library on the Edinburg campus was shattered after a large bird hit it. A work order was submitted to Facilities.

12:39 p.m.: A student reported that she discovered damage to her vehicle after it was left parked in Lot B-3 on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

3:19 p.m.: The president of a student organization reported someone was placing stickers and flyers on their organization's bulletin board on the Brownsville campus. It was determined no crime had occurred.

8:02 p.m.: An employee of the University of Texas System Education and Research Center at Laredo reported possible discrepancies when reviewing fuel purchases made using a university fleet account over

the previous year. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 26

12:33 p.m.: A student in the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus reported receiving a scam phone call, during which she provided the caller with some of her personal information.

12:42 p.m.: Three female students on the Edinburg campus reported that a male student they know made them feel uncomfortable because he stares at them. It was determined no crime had occurred.

11:41 a.m.: A student reported that her ex-boyfriend physically assaulted her in Lincoln Park in Brownsville after the disturbance began in Lot B-1. The incident occurred in September. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

Pause on late fees, disconnections OK'd

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Natalie Lapsley THE RIDER

During last Tuesday's special meeting, the Brownsville City Commission unanimously approved the final reading on Ordinance 2022-1534-A, which establishes a pause on Brownsville Public Utilities Board late fees and disconnections until Feb. 28, 2023.

PUB Forensic Examination: Third in a Series

The approval comes in light of the Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC Forensic Examination Report, which investigated the Brownsville Public Utilities Board's activities leading up to and after an agreement with

Tenaska Inc., an international power development company, to build a local natural gas-fired generating station, according to the CRI report.

"There are funds that were raised for a project that has been terminated that should be given back to the community," Patricio Sampayo, BPUB vice chair, told the city commission.

Before the commission voted to approve the item unanimously, Brownsville District 4 City Commissioner Pedro Cardenas said it is important to continue to call ratepayers who owe money, even though fees and disconnections will be paused.

"Come March 1 ... it's going to be a big bill to pay," Cardenas said. "Let's try to continue to find a way to at least call and offer payment plans. ... Because if we wait till the end of this ... that's going to be a huge bill."

See BROWNSVILLE, Page 10



Arisbeth Rodriguez/THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission approves the final reading on Ordinance 2022-1534-A, which establishes a pause on utility bill late fees and disconnections until Feb. 28, 2023. During its special meeting last Tuesday, the commission also discussed the potential uses of the \$29 million Tenaska Equity Fund.

THE RIDER

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

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Bailey responds to DHR statements



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

UTRGV President Guy Bailey says the university does not view the termination of the affiliation agreement between Doctors Hospital at Renaissance and the UTRGV School of Medicine “as problematic nor was it unexpected.” “This latest development is part of UTRGV’s natural evolution and undoubtedly reflects the fact that our healthcare mission no longer aligns with a for-profit, physician-owned health system like DHR Health,” according to Bailey’s Oct. 12 email to the campus community.

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

UTRGV President Guy Bailey has responded to statements made in letters by Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Health on the “quality of education” and “provisional” status of the UTRGV School of Medicine.

DHR “unilaterally” decided to end an affiliation agreement with UTRGV after six years, according to an Oct. 12 email sent by the Office of the President.

“Please know that we do not view this termination as problematic nor was it unexpected,” Bailey’s email reads. “This latest development is part of UTRGV’s natural evolution and undoubtedly reflects the fact that our healthcare mission no longer aligns with a for-profit, physician-owned health system like DHR Health.”

DHR took issue with part of the president’s email.

An Oct. 12 letter from Manish Singh, chief executive officer at DHR

Health, to residents, fellows, faculty and staff explains DHR’s decision for the termination was not “financially motivated.”

“DHR Health has always put patients and quality in front of financial consideration,” Singh wrote. “On the contrary, DHR Health provides many specialties and service lines that others in the community will not due to their negative financial impact.”

Bailey told The Rider in a phone interview last Thursday that all the hospitals in the Rio Grande Valley are for profit.

“There are no nonprofit hospitals in the Rio Grande Valley,” Bailey said. “Anytime a medical school and hospital partner, [there are] issues that come up and this comes up all the time. I mean, when I had a medical school in Kansas City, we always had issues and it’s because the missions aren’t exactly the same. And, so, we’re a nonprofit medical school and they are a ... for-profit hospital. And, so, our missions are just slightly different.”

He said he believes DHR is interested in training residents and the termination does not mean that UTRGV and DHR are not interested in expanding medical care in the Valley or training residents.

DHR paid UTRGV \$1.5 million monthly to help compensate the residents, according to an email sent to The Rider last Thursday from Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV associate vice president for Marketing and Communications and university spokesman.

“In other words, we are the sponsor

of the residencies,” Bailey said, “So those residents are our employees and so they get UTRGV checks every month. Since they are our employees, then DHR is using their labor.”

Singh’s Oct. 12 letter states that DHR Health’s decision to terminate the affiliation agreement was based on their requirements that residents and fellows receive the highest quality of education by the appropriate experienced faculty located on their campus.

Bailey said that DHR residents receive a “very high-quality education.”

“And it’s reflected in the fact that all of those residents end up getting very good jobs,” he said. “In fact, DHR has hired a number of our former residents who worked there, so they certainly had enough confidence to hire those residents. But the second thing is that the vast majority of the doctors at DHR, [who our residents are working with], are DHR doctors. So I don’t know how to interpret that. I don’t understand that statement, frankly.”

On Oct. 3, DHR Health also sent a letter to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott explaining how UTRGV’s approach of educating residents is no longer the vision DHR had for future physicians.

“The [School of Medicine] still remains [on] ‘Provisional’ status with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) after seven years of providing medical education in our community,” Singh wrote. “For these reasons we have come to the decision that a termination of our Affiliation Agreement is in the

See **STATEMENTS**, Page 10

Day of the Dead: a reunion with the passed



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), celebrated on Nov. 2, is a time for people to remember loved ones who have passed away.

“*Día de los Muertos* is more about the celebration of life and those that have passed on,” said Patricia Ramirez-Biondolillo, assistant professor of practice in the department of Teaching and Learning. “Nov. 1 is actually *Día de los angelitos*. So, in that time, if there’s any children or little ones that have passed, you celebrate them and remember them.”

Día de los Angelitos, also known as Children’s Day or Day of the Little Angels, is a day to honor and remember all the lives of children who have died. It is believed that on Nov. 1, the souls of departed children return home.

Día de los Muertos is very special in [my] family,” Ramirez-Biondolillo said. “... It’s my favorite time of year. As a Chicana down here in the Rio Grande Valley, I think it’s really

beautiful that we get to celebrate our culture, our tradition, our heritage and all of the indigenous practices that have been passed down from generations to generations.”

Ramirez-Biondolillo celebrates *Día de los Muertos* every year with her family.

“Every year, we have a little altar here in our home, and we put up all of our pictures of our family [members who have died],” she said. “We tried to get most of the families together. ... We would talk about the stories of our grandmothers and, you know, we shared those good times. We prayed together and just really have that shared sense of unity and solidarity.”

She encourages everyone to celebrate and remember their loved ones on *Día de los Muertos*.

“We want to think about celebrating our culture, our history, our families ... remembering them and all the good moments that they have given us within their time,” Ramirez-Biondolillo said. “Time is very precious. That’s why we have to go forward. Appreciate all the moments that you can with your family,

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Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

Jeffrey Ward, dean of the College of Fine Arts, shares the advancements and plans for the College of Fine Arts during the Student Government Association meeting Oct. 21 in the Music, Science and Learning center on the Brownsville campus.

SGA executive team proposes professional school workshops

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

Student Government Association President Jonathan Dominguez said the executive team met with the Associate Vice President for Student Success Reymundo Ramos to discuss resources for students entering professional schools.

During the senate’s Oct. 21 meeting, Dominguez said he proposed the idea of a university course for students’ preparation on tests, such as the Medical College Admission Test and Law School Admission Test.

“We’re also working on having workshops to prepare students to apply to those professional schools, like workshops for interviews ... and also workshops for how to do the application process,” he said.

SGA Vice President of Internal Affairs Kimberly Escalante said the team also met with Campus Auxiliary

Services to talk about the dining services. Escalante said a survey will be conducted to create a better experience in the dining hall for students. She said the SGA will help promote the survey through its social media.

Escalante said the team was scheduled to meet with College of Education and P-16 Integration Dean Alma D. Rodríguez at 9 a.m. last Wednesday to discuss college representation in the senate.

The executive team met with College of Fine Arts Dean Jeffrey Ward to also discuss college representation. Ward gave a presentation during the senate meeting about updates within the college. He spoke about the future creation of a marching band for next fall semester.

He said the band gives the university “one of many opportunities” to bring

See **SGA**, Page 10



If you were to become a witch and cast one spell, what would your spell do?



Juan Lopez
member of the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) at UTRGV

“Well, maybe it could be weird, my answer, but I will [make] everyone ... turn to the good principles of morality. Have more fear [of] God. And, yeah, just to live the right decisions.”



Ayssa Melchor
Exercise science senior

“I think it would be to be able to make people tell the truth, because I don't really like when they lie to me.”



Jimena Reina
estudiante de primer año de ingeniería civil

“Que la gente se tratara mejor y con más respeto.”



Gael Amador
estudiante de primer año de contabilidad

“Mi hechizo le daría felicidad a todos con lo que ya tenemos.”

--Compiled and photos by Roxanna Miranda

Discover the benefits of volunteering



Jesus Solis
DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT

Volunteer work can be a great way to positively contribute to your community by giving back. It is also a great way to grow as a person and can be an enjoyable experience that can come with surprising benefits.

A couple of years ago, when I was a freshman, I had accidentally enrolled in an English 1301 course with an extra integrated community engagement component embedded in its curriculum, since I hadn't checked the course's description.

While it was different from the standard version of the course, it still fulfilled my degree requirements. We were individually tasked with finding some way to help and interact with the community so we could then write a report about our impact and what we learned from the experience.

The manner in which the students could complete the project was not restricted to volunteer work. For example, we could get part-time work at a nonprofit, such as the university, or other non-government organizations (NGOs) while

getting paid. However, I decided to volunteer due the relative ease in which one can readily find volunteer work.

The organization I decided to volunteer at was the Palm Valley Animal Society at the Laurie P. Andrews Center in Edinburg. I was already familiar with the organization's mission and location because I had donated supplies in order to get extra credit in high school. I figured I would enjoy taking care of the animals since they were clean, well-fed and trained to be well-behaved.

I began with the society by getting registered in its system for volunteers and going through its group orientation.

My experience helped me adopt them because it proved that I would be a good caretaker for my new pets, which is a key criterion in the adoption process.

The orientation was thorough because it encompassed the training for most of the different types of entry-level tasks that we were able to do for the organization.

The types of tasks we could perform ranged from cleaning the animals and their living quarters, maintenance and assisting in events to, my favorites, feeding and walking the animals. There were also other tasks, such as giving flea baths and assisting with some medical routines.

In the organization, you could reserve specific tasks that came with a specified time and location and come in on your

own time to assist with tasks that are available to do at that point. Throughout my time there, I chose to exclusively only do the latter since I had my commitment to school.

I started out cleaning the living quarters in the mornings and I fed and helped to exercise the animals on most weekdays in the afternoon. I really enjoyed taking care of the animals because they were very excited to see me once they got used to me, which was accomplished quickly since they loved the food and were eager to play around.

I found dog walking to be the most enjoyable activity because the center has a large fenced-off area in the back, which makes it easy to play with the dogs in a more closed-off quarters, or in a large area if you would like to walk long distances or perform activities that require a significant amount of space, like fetch.

Pet sitting the cats was a close second because the cats were tame and could be a bit quirky at times, which was always fun to see. The environment was temperature controlled, making it much more pleasant compared to walking the dogs outside when it was cold at the end of the semester.

Toward the end of my volunteering days, I decided to adopt one dog and cat that I got particularly well-acquainted with. My experience helped me adopt them because it proved that I would be a good caretaker for my new pets, which is a key criterion in the adoption process.

WACKY WEB POLL
WOULD YOU RATHER BE CHASED BY CHUCKY OR MICHAEL MYERS?

81% **CHUCKY**
19% **MICHAEL MYERS**

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com to participate

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Día de los Muertos: un reencuentro con los pasados

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Día de los Muertos, que se celebra el 2 de noviembre, es un momento para que las personas recuerden a sus seres queridos que han fallecido.

“El Día de los Muertos trata más sobre la celebración de la vida y de aquellos que han fallecido”, dijo Patricia Ramirez-Biondolillo, profesora asistente de práctica en el Departamento de Enseñanza y Aprendizaje. “Nov. 1 es en realidad Día de los angelitos. Entonces, en ese tiempo, si hay niños o pequeños que han fallecido, los celebras y los recuerdas”.

El Día de los Angelitos, también conocido como *Children's Day* o *Day of the Little Angels*, es un día para honrar y recordar todas las vidas de los niños que han fallecido. Se cree que el 1 de noviembre, las almas de los niños difuntos regresan a casa.

“El Día de los Muertos es muy especial en [mi] familia”, dijo Ramirez-Biondolillo. “Es mi época favorita del año. Como chicana aquí en el Valle del Río Grande, creo que es realmente hermoso que podamos celebrar nuestra cultura, nuestra tradición, nuestra herencia y todas las prácticas indígenas que se han transmitido de generación en generación”.

Ramirez-Biondolillo celebra el Día de los Muertos todos los años con su familia.



Aurora Acevedo/GRÁFICO RIDER

“Cada año, tenemos un pequeño altar aquí en nuestra casa, y ponemos todas las fotos de nuestra familia [miembros que han fallecido]”, dijo. “Tratamos de reunir a la mayoría de las familias. ... Hablamos de las historias de nuestras abuelas y, ya sabes, compartimos esos buenos momentos. Oramos juntos y realmente tenemos ese sentido compartido de unidad y solidaridad”.

Ella alienta a todos a celebrar y recordar a sus seres queridos en el Día de los Muertos.

“Queremos pensar en celebrar nuestra cultura, nuestra historia, nuestras familias ... recordándolos a ellos y todos los buenos momentos

que nos han dado en su tiempo”, dijo Ramirez-Biondolillo. “El tiempo es muy valioso. Por eso tenemos que seguir adelante. Aprecia todos los momentos que puedas con tu familia, amigos y mira siempre hacia lo bueno”.

Ana Peña-Oliva, profesora titular de lingüística hispánica y especialista de pregrado en español, dijo que como guatemalteca creció celebrando el Día de Todos los Santos, pero cuando se mudó al Valle del Río Grande comenzó a celebrar el Día de los Muertos.

“Lo celebramos de una manera diferente, más al estilo español porque en España celebran el Día de Todos los Santos, que es el primero

de noviembre, y yo crecí con esa tradición”, dijo. “El Día de Todos los Santos es similar al Día de los Muertos, pero los altares no se hacen como para el Día de los Muertos. Las familias suelen juntarse y van al cementerio a limpiar las tumbas, poner flores e ir a la iglesia”.

Peña-Oliva dijo que después de la experiencia de la pandemia de COVID-19, anima a todos a ver el Día de los Muertos de una manera positiva.

“La realidad de la vida es que todos vamos a morir en algún momento”, dijo. “Estoy segura de que las personas que se nos adelantaron en el camino de la vida estarían más felices de vernos a nosotros felices y no sufriendo porque es algo que eventualmente nos pasará a todos”.

La Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica, *Sigma Delta Pi*, y el Departamento de Español invitan a la comunidad de UTRGV a participar en los concursos de Calaveritas y Altares en conmemoración al Día de los Muertos.

El Concurso de Calaveritas consiste en un poema con un mínimo de dos estrofas y debe estar escrito en español. Se debe evitar el uso de palabras ofensivas. Debe enviarse en un documento de *Word* o *PDF* por correo electrónico a sigmadeltapi@utrgv.edu antes de las 11:59 p.m. viernes.

Vea REENCUENTRO, Página 11



Midterm Elections Election Day

Tuesday, Nov. 8 ESTAC Lobby

Make a plan.
Vote early on campus.



For questions or accommodations about Early Voting, email Civic Engagement Alliance at cea@utrgv.edu



Bringing home the medals



Jesse Valencia/THE RIDER

Shown are the members of the American Criminal Justice Association Brownsville Iota Kappa Chi chapter award recipients from the ACJA Regional Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Shown are front row Sergeant-At-Arms Mandie Santibanez (from left), Historian Cynthia Ramirez, Reyna Rodriguez, Allison Hauser, Secretary Kayla Navarro, Junior Adviser Marco Betancourt. Back row Alexis Nieto (from left), Vice President Desiree Garcia, Treasurer Emily Sosa, Faculty Adviser Michael Sanchez, Jacob Rodriguez, President Devin Perez, Juan Rodriguez and Faculty Adviser Marguerite DeWitt.

Juan Villarreal

THE RIDER

UTRGV's American Criminal Justice Association Brownsville chapter, Iota Kappa Chi, took home 32 medals and were named Grand Champions at the Region Two Conference hosted from Oct. 13 to 15 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Devin Perez, a criminal justice major and American Criminal Justice Association Brownsville president, said the chapter

performed above expectations.

"Everything paid off for us," Perez said. "We went in there expecting to do great, but I don't think any one of us really expected us to come out on top, but, thankfully, we did."

The conference included several organizations, such as the UTRGV Edinburg Sigma Kappa Chi and Brownsville chapters. Overall, six chapters were in attendance.

The American Criminal Justice Association Brownsville

chapter placed first in several events, including both the Upper Division and the Professional Division Team Shooting competitions.

"With our chapter ... we train all year-round, every Saturday," Perez said. "We train under the guidance of Dr. Michael Sanchez [the association faculty adviser]. He gives us hands-on one-on-one training sessions with every person."

Jacob Rodriguez, criminal justice junior and Brownsville

chapter member, competed alongside other members in the Firearms competition.

"They had us shoot at the 7-, the 15- and the 21-yard lines and we are evaluated by our points," Rodriguez said. "Our points is how we were ranked for first, second and third [place]."

He placed second in the Individual Upper Division Firearms competition and was one of three members in the Teams Upper Division Firearms competition, which placed first.

"All the effort and time we put in was obviously beneficial to us," Rodriguez said.

He was one of three members on the team that placed third in the Upper Division section.

"We go in and we have to know exactly what was going on inside the scene ... and how the person was killed ... together as a team," Rodriguez said.

Desiree Garcia, a criminal justice and psychology double major and ACJA-Brownsville vice president, competed with Rodriguez in the Criminal Justice Investigation event.

"We learned how to do fingerprints collection, collecting biological evidence, collecting evidence in general [and] learning blood splatter," Garcia said. "We did mock scenarios here when we did our meetings. ... It gave us an advantage."

Aside from the team events,

the members also placed in individual events.

Perez placed first in the Physical Fitness for men ages 26-35 category and Rodriguez placed first in the same competition for men ages 18-25.

"They just ran us through that course," Rodriguez said. "I had never seen that course in my life. I never have practiced it, never studied it. ... I just did my own training with my little group. It's a full course. It's the exact course of the Oklahoma [Police Department]."

Coming back from the conference, the group has future plans to prepare for the Spring National competition.

"We are competing against chapters all over the country," Perez said.

Garcia spoke about the life and career skills the members have learned from joining this organization.

"It helps you break out of your shell," she said. "That's something that we strive for ... to help people get out there, [to] be professional, [show] leadership and take their stance."

Rodriguez said that showing up to the practices is worth it.

"I believe the effort that you put in and the dedication showing up to these meetings, showing up to these practices ... you're gonna get a lot of knowledge that's gonna be beneficial to your future," Rodriguez said.

THE RIDER 2022 PET COSTUME CONTEST WINNER



Congratulations,
Pulgosa!
Guardian of the
Pumpkin Patch

HALLOWEEN



día de los
MUERTOS
Barile **NOVEMBER 2**

**STUDENT UNION
PLAINSCAPITAL BANK
EL GRAN SALÓN**

7 PM

**BSTUN | One W University Blvd.
Brownsville, TX 78520
Room 2.36**

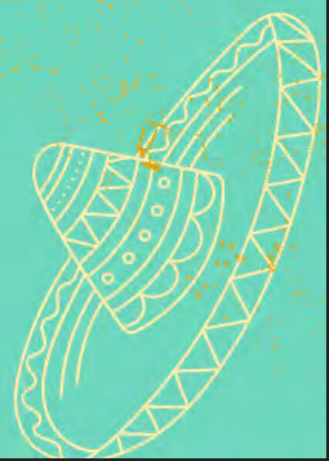
DJ Josh, free food and T-shirts while supplies last!

For more info email nayeli.e.garcia01@utrgv.edu



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Musical tribute to veterans

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

In the second-ever concert held at the Edinburg Promenade Park Amphitheater, the Pre-Veteran's Day Music Festival will feature legendary Tejano artists Roberto Pulido and his son, Bobby Pulido, UTRGV's own *Mariachi Juvenil* and other musical acts at 5:30 p.m. Friday.

The free event starts with performances by UTRGV *Mariachi Juvenil* and UTRGV Ballet Folklorico, followed by an honor guard presenting the colors, the national anthem and a welcome by Edinburg Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr. and members of the City Council.

Los Dos Gilbertos de Gilberto Garcia Jr., a tribute band, will follow the opening events.

The UTRGV *Mariachi Juvenil* will perform alongside the Pulidos and individually.

Dahlia Guerra, UTRGV assistant vice president for Public Art & Special Projects, told The Rider the City of Edinburg reached out to the mariachi and asked them to accompany the



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

The UTRGV *Mariachi Juvenil* rehearses last Wednesday in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The group will perform alongside legendary Tejano artists Roberto Pulido and his son, Bobby Pulido at the Edinburg Music Festival, which will take place Friday at the Edinburg Promenade Park Amphitheater.

Pulidos as they have in the past.

Guerra said *Mariachi Juvenil* has been rehearsing since the start of the year and even rehearsed with Roberto for this concert. Songs to be performed

include "*Me Despertó la Realidad*," a duet with his daughter, Alba Pulido, and "*No Vale La Pena*," a duet with Bobby.

"It's a great opportunity for [*Mariachi*

Juvenil," she said. "When [Roberto] came to rehearse with [*Mariachi Juvenil*], he was inspiring. He tells them to work hard and to realize the beauty of music and what music does for them. ... He quotes his dad ... 'It's not just important to make money. It's important to be a good person and give back to your community.' It wasn't just, 'Let's read my music.' He was trying to be inspirational and encourage them to work hard."

Miguel Aguirre Jr., a music education senior and guitar player for *Mariachi Juvenil*, told The Rider it was awesome to rehearse with Roberto and that he is excited to perform with the Pulidos for the festival.

"He's a charismatic older gentleman," Aguirre said of Roberto. "He's always giving encouraging words of wisdom ... to keep up with your dreams, you know, '*Echándole ganas*,' as he would say."

As an Edinburg native, Aguirre said he is excited to be one of the first musicians to play at the new Edinburg Promenade Park Amphitheater located at 202 N. 10th Ave.

See **TRIBUTE**, Page 11

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-This new month will bring you nothing but positive vibes. Be optimistic and enjoy anything that comes your way. This new energy will be the start of a great change you've been anticipating. For now, occupy yourself by listing goals and planning to-do lists to stay on track.

Leo-You've been counting down the remaining days of the year, waiting for it to end. Despite wanting a break from the workload, consider using the remaining days in a useful way. Use this time wisely by preparing your goals and planning for the following year. Instead of dreading time left, take advantage of it.

Sagittarius-You have now found your rhythm on how to approach things. This energy switch has made things twice as easy and exciting for you. Stay encouraged by incorporating this approach in your lifestyle. The sooner your mindset changes, the less worried you'll be about pending tasks.

Libra-The turnaround you've been hoping for has now made an appearance in your life. Be grateful this adjustment has reached you because not everyone is lucky enough to experience this growth. Share this moment with others and guide them. People take your advice more seriously than they do with others.

Gemini-Not everyone is who they seem, so be careful who you associate with. Make sure they are fully transparent before you start to trust them. A bond formed on lies will easily come tumbling down as soon as those secrets come out. Don't be negative but, don't be naive.

Aquarius-Companionship comes in all sorts of methods in our everyday lives. Because of these friendships, we are able to be who we are without judgment. Value who is around you and tell them you appreciate the comfort they bring to you. They have been wanting to tell you similar things, as well.

Scorpio-In the coming weeks, you will face a situation that will open your eyes to a new perspective you have missed before. Don't fear this realization but rather take it for what it is. Sometimes, as individuals, we give certain circumstances the benefit of the doubt then later become aware it was a mistake. It is OK to feel this way. All things happen for a reason and serve a purpose.

Pisces-Change can be avoidable for as long as you want but, sooner or later, it will need to be established. In order to grow as a person in a relationship or in a career, there will always be things to alter. Take time to reflect on all the aspects you desire growth in and find the solution to it by making modifications.

Cancer-In the next two months, work on finding your true self. Give yourself a head start before next year. Once 2023 approaches you'll have an idea of what you want to pursue. Spend quality time with yourself and address any suppressed trauma by doing some self-care.

Taurus-Dedicate this week to prioritizing your mental health to navigate the next step in your life. There are tons of things to do, but it is not worth putting your health in danger. Take small breaks to reflect on how to prevent feeling overwhelmed. Afterward, determine what direction you should take.

Virgo-Holidays are around the corner and your mind can't resist thinking about time with your family this year. Although there may be bad blood, try being the bigger person and move forward to create better memories. On the other hand, if making amends is impossible then redirect your time to those who have been there for you.

Capricorn-Sometimes we don't like to accept what is right in front of us, so we deny what is happening. This kind of behavior will only cause pain and hide your emotions from reality. Although it may be tough to accept what is happening and let go, sometimes it is what is necessary for the soul.

Sudoku



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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña



Athlete of the week

Agustin Salazar



Jose Medina/THE RIDER

Mass communication freshman Agustin Salazar plays for the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team. Salazar graduated from McAllen Memorial High School. He recently won the Singles H Draw Championship 3-0 at the University of Texas at San Antonio Jauer Roadrunner Invitational.

Q: What do you do for fun outside of tennis?

A: "Outside of tennis, I like to watch tennis or watch Formula 1 [racing] or play video games. Either that or spend time with friends."

Q: What movies or shows do you like?

A: "I love Marvel movies. 'Star Wars' movies, anything Marvel or 'Star Wars' related, I really like. I like the Formula 1 TV show, the Netflix series ['Formula 1: Drive to Survive']."

Q: What kind of music do you like?

A: "Anything in Spanish, reggaeton, corridos, antiguas. I really like 'Experimento,' 'Mi Niña,' 'No Sigue Modas,' 'Algo Me Gusta de Ti,' 'Calma.'"

Q: Who is one of your role models?

A: "Either Roger Federer or [race car drivers] Sergio Pérez or Carlos Sainz Jr."

Q: What has been your proudest moment?

A: "Tenniswise, there's two: getting third in state when I was in high school and, now with UTRGV, winning the UTSA tournament. In high school, it was the State Tennis Tournament UIL 5A. Winning the UTSA tournament with UTRGV, it's called Roadrunner Invitational, that was like three weeks ago."

Q: Do you have any fun facts about yourself?

A: "Even though I'm an athlete, I don't eat that good. I eat a lot of junk, but I burn it off right away. I really, really enjoy cars, like, anything about cars, like racing. I started playing tennis when I was 4. I give tennis lessons."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

Men's basketball prepared to win



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV sophomore guard Sherman Brashear performs a layup during practice Oct. 24 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. The team will play an exhibition match against the Concordia University Tornadoes at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Fieldhouse.

Matthew Gonzalez SPORTS REPORTER

On Oct. 18, head coach Matt Figger and student athletes Justin Johnson and Dima Zdor participated in a Western Athletic Conference Media Day in the UTRGV Fieldhouse, giving insight into their season.

Figger said he is "extremely happy" about this year's team.

"We've been able to get a lot of continuity when we went out and recruited," Figger said. "We decided we had to become No. 1 and a bigger team from a size standpoint. The one thing I like the most about this team is their unselfishness. We've got guys who have played at other programs that come together."

Last year, the team's record was 8-23 overall and 3-15 in conference, but this year, Figger said the common denominator across the board is players' assist numbers at their previous schools.

"I think we're going to have a pretty good passing team," Figger said. "We've got good size, which will help us recover in defensive situations, where we were smaller last year."

Forward veteran Johnson, who has averaged 17.7 points, 2.3 assists and 6.7 rebounds per game, explained how he will use his experience for the team.

"Just stepping up and being more of a leader on and off the floor," Johnson said. "Coach preaches that to me every day, just coming in and being an everyday guy, knowing what he expects—being a leader to the guys, helping them learn new stuff, learning the system and how to dwell in the system."

he has been recruiting me since high school. As soon as I transferred, I knew I could not pass up that opportunity, especially with what he was trying to build here, kind of rebounding from the past season."

He said he wanted to be a part of the team.

"I'm extremely blessed with what he is doing with us right now, which is building this camaraderie," Zdor said. "I'm gonna tell you that we are going to surprise a lot of teams in the WAC. I just saw this poll by the coaching staff yesterday and it's going to be a whole different conversation two months from now, which I am very excited about, and I'm ready to show people what we can achieve this season."

He also said he believes the team is going to be good this season.

"We have players who are coming in who are going to be a big help this season and it's going to show throughout the year," Zdor said. "There's definitely a lot of pressure off because they can score well and they can play defense."

The UTRGV Men's Basketball Team is set to start its season with an exhibition match against Concordia University at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

"It's going to be a whole different conversation two months from now, which I am very excited about, and I'm ready to show people what we can achieve this season."

--Dima Zdor

UTRGV Men's Basketball Forward

"They've all been coming together really good in practice, playing high and low, just learning how to get to their spots in the post. We've been building chemistry since June and it's been good."

Forward Zdor, a transfer student from Grand Canyon University, explained what he likes about the team so far.

"I knew coach Figger for a while," Zdor said. "He had plenty of success in the past coaching the teams, and

This Week in Sports

Men's Basketball

6:30 p.m.
AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

Wednesday vs.
Concordia University Texas

Men's Soccer

6:30 p.m.
AT THE UTRGV SOCCER AND TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX

Saturday vs.
Houston Christian University

BROWNSVILLE

Continued from Page 2

Mayor Trey Mendez agreed. The commissioners also heard an update from BPUB officials on proposed uses of the funds collected to support the failed Tenaska Project. Sampayo said the next two questions BPUB and the commission has to focus on is how much is owed to the ratepayers and how to go about paying them back. One option would be to set aside a percentage of the funds to assist low-income households first, Sampayo said. The proposal is inspired by the San Antonio City Council's approval last December of a \$50 million electric rate rebate, or partial refund, which sets aside 15% for low-income families.

"The Tenaska Equity Fund has been pretty well publicized and the amount has been out in the public for some time now," he said. "And that is the \$29 million that has been sitting separately within PUB accounts. "And then ... at a [previous] city commission meeting, it was mentioned there are some funds that were transferred to the city." Sampayo said estimates put that additional amount at about \$11 million. He suggested it be included in the money owed to ratepayers, bringing the total to around \$40 million. The BPUB Finance Committee has scheduled a public meeting for noon Friday to get feedback from city commissioners, city staff and the public on what action to take regarding the \$40 million.

During the Oct. 24 BPUB meeting, the board approved a joint committee with the city commission to improve collaboration and prioritize paying back utility customers, according to Sampayo. On the topic of the committee, Brownsville District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos asked whether the board has contacted its legal counsel regarding potential conflicts of interest, including BPUB Chair Sandra Saenz, who previously worked as a secretary for former Mayor Tony Martinez, who was named in the CRI report. "Is that something that you all have looked at?" De los Santos asked. "Does it make sense for the chair to be unilaterally appointing this committee or should the board be making that decision? Or is the board

vote required to ratify that?" Sampayo replied that he would be "more than happy" to address it with BPUB's counsel after the meeting and asked that any concerns regarding conflicts of interest be reported to the city attorney to share with the board counsel. Mendez said he thinks setting aside some of the funds to assist low-income and at-risk households is a good idea. He also requested that BPUB gather data from payments over the last 10 years to figure out a formula that can be used to repay utility customers. Mike Perez, BPUB assistant general manager and chief financial officer, said the extraction of data from the BPUB billing system should be completed "within a couple of days" but any delays will be reported to the board and commission.

STATEMENTS

Continued from Page 3

best interest of the residents and their continuing medical education." However, last Thursday, Gonzales provided The Rider with a letter from the ACGME to the UTRGV School of Medicine that states the ACGME Institutional Review Committee granted continuing accreditation to UTRGV effective Jan. 18, 2022. The ACGME letter states, in part: "The Institutional Review Committee (IRC), functioning in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), has reviewed the information submitted regarding the following institution: University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Harlingen, TX Institution: 8004801149 Based on the information available at its recent meeting, the Review Committee accredited the institution as follows: Status: Continued Accreditation Effective Date: 01/18/2022." Bailey told The Rider, "What that means is we were always accredited,

fully accredited. There's no provisional status at all. And the [DHR] letter was, I mean, it's just false. I think [DHR has] since corrected that with the governor. I don't know that for sure, but my understanding is that [DHR was] writing a letter to correct that." The Rider asked DHR for an interview, but Marcy Martinez, director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at DHR Health, told the newspaper in an Oct. 20 email that DHR is not "currently giving any comments on the topic." The newspaper also tried to contact Dr. Michael Hocker, dean of the School of Medicine, for comment on the termination agreement. In an email to The Rider last Thursday, Saira Cabrera, internal communication content specialist for the School of Medicine, wrote, "Please accept our apologies that we were not able to meet your deadline. Unfortunately, Dean Hocker has previous commitments and is unavailable this week for interviews." The UTRGV School of Medicine currently has 241 residents overall and 119 at DHR, according to Gonzales.

Saul Ruvalcaba, a second-year resident of family medicine at DHR, said he decided to do his residency at DHR because there was a portion of the interview that asked more than just the typical questions. "More than just 'What's your greatest strength? What's your greatest weakness?' and I felt that if they were really trying to look and get an idea of who the people were [going into their program] that sounded like they really cared about that, and that's pretty much why I chose them," Ruvalcaba said. He said the termination affects the residency programs in different ways. "The difference is in the timing," Ruvalcaba said. "For instance, surgery and [obstetrics/gynecology], both of those are more than three years. OB/GYN is four, I believe, and surgery is five. So both of those programs, in that three-year wind-down period, at the end of that, there is no more UTRGV-DHR and so those people are left with one year of 'Where I am going to go to school?' ... And, so, that's a lost opportunity for them, as well." Bailey said it should not affect the

residents' training. "I mean, you're going to continue and finish your residency program and we will see where we guarantee, you know, that we will continue to support that," he said. "Our residents will always be trained and they'll have our support. And, you know, for a patient seeking health care, it shouldn't affect your health care at all." Ruvalcaba said he believes UTRGV and DHR Health are trying to do what's best for the community. "It's kind of tragic, you know, to see that UTRGV wants to be doing what is best for the community and help out people, and I believe that DHR wants to do that, too," he said. "And, unfortunately, they can't agree on how that's done." Bailey said he does not know what the future will bring but hopes UTRGV and DHR will cooperate in the future. "I mean, over time, agreements like this happen and then you'll have an affiliation agreement," he said. "You'll end it. You'll start it back. And if you look at these kinds of agreements over time, it's just kind of normal process."

REUNION

Continued from Page 3

friends and always look to the good." Ana Peña-Oliva, a senior lecturer of Hispanic linguistics and undergraduate Spanish degree specialist, said that as a Guatemalan, she grew up celebrating All Saints' Day, but when she moved to the Rio Grande Valley she started celebrating *Día de los Muertos*. "We celebrate it in a different way, more Spanish style because in Spain they celebrate All Saints' Day, which is the first of November, and I grew up with that tradition," Peña-Oliva said.

"All Saints' Day is similar to the Day of the Dead, but the altars are not made as they are for *Día de los Muertos*. Families usually get together and go to the cemetery to clean the graves, put flowers and go to church." Peña-Oliva said that after the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, she encourages everyone to see *Día de los Muertos* in a positive way. "The reality of life is that we are all going to die at some point," she said. "I am sure that the people who go ahead of us on the path of life would be happier to see us happy and not suffering because it is something that will eventually happen to all of us."

The UTRGV Housing and Residence Life Department, Student Union and the UREC will host a dance for *Día de los Muertos* from 7 to 11 p.m. Nov. 2 in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The event is open to the UTRGV community. Students, faculty and staff will be able to enjoy free food, music, games and much more at the dance. The first 250 students to attend will receive a free Day of the Dead T-shirt sponsored by Pepsi. "This ... is [a] huge traditional event that we are so proud of," said Nayeli Garcia, housing coordinator on the Brownsville campus. "We did get some food. We have taco boxes. We

are going to have a lot of really cool opportunities for them to, you know, take pictures, have fun with it." Attendees can pre-register for the event at Eventbrite to receive a VIP package that includes a T-shirt, sugar skull and taco box. The UTRGV Ballet Folklórico will perform at the event. "The past couple of years, we have [been] very lucky that our UTRGV folklórico team has been a part of it," Garcia said. "We are so excited that they are coming back so that way they can have their traditional Mexican dances and really just show everybody the beauty of our Latin culture."

SGA

Continued from Page 3

not only the campuses together but also "the whole [Rio Grande] Valley together." Ward said the plan is to have students engage in the process of selecting the band's name and uniforms. He said the college is starting a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee, which will provide students with a space where they can feel supported as artists. Kristen Hallas, senator for the Graduate College, spoke on behalf of the Financial Affairs Committee and said the SGA is using a new standard for the student travel fund applications. The new amounts are

\$700 for students who participate or compete in an event and \$400 for students who only attend an event. Financial Affairs Chair Josiah Gonzalez, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, said the Internal Affairs Committee approved the updated fund amounts two weeks ago. Before the change, the amount for attendees was \$350 and \$500 for participants for an entire trip. Gonzalez said the committee proposed the change because the old amounts were not enough for students to travel comfortably. "If they're going to Houston, New York, I mean, those aren't Houston or New York prices," he said. "So we just

thought it was fair to raise those prices." Julianna Castillo, chair of Campus Life and Community Affairs and senator for the College of Health Professions, said the committee is working to collaborate with other departments for a coat drive that will last for two and a half weeks starting Nov. 14. She said the drive will be specifically to donate coats but other clothing items will also be accepted. Castillo said the coats will be donated to *Mujeres Unidas* in Pharr. She said the committee is still working on where the donation bins will be available for students. Castillo also said the committee is looking to collaborate with the

Student Food Pantry to extend its hours of operation. The pantry's current hours of operation are from 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday. Academic Affairs Chair Kassandra Garcia, senator for the College of Sciences, said the committee is finishing the last touches for Meet the Deans, an SGA event in which students can interact with the dean of their respective college. Meet the Deans will be from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The event will also take place at the same time Nov. 8 in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



REENCUENTRO
Continuación de Página 5

Para participar en el Concurso de Altares, los participantes deben enviar cuatro fotos y un video de dos minutos de su altar a sigmadelatapi@utrgv.edu. La fecha límite para enviar la entrada es a las 11:59 p.m. viernes.

Se entregarán certificados a los ganadores del primer, segundo y tercer lugar de cada concurso. Los ganadores se anunciarán el 18 de noviembre durante la ceremonia de inducción de *Sigma Delta Pi*. Para obtener más información, envíe un correo electrónico a sigmadelatapi@utrgv.edu.

El Departamento de Vivienda y Vida Residencial de

UTRGV, la Unión Estudiantil y el UREC organizarán un baile por el Día de los Muertos de 7 a 11 p.m. el 2 de noviembre en el *PlainsCapital Bank* El Gran Salón en el campus de Brownsville. El evento está abierto a la comunidad de UTRGV.

Los estudiantes, la facultad y el personal podrán disfrutar de comida gratis, música, juegos y mucho más en el baile. Los primeros 250 estudiantes que asistan recibirán una camiseta del Día de los Muertos gratis patrocinada por Pepsi.

“Este ... es [un] gran evento tradicional del que estamos muy orgullosos”, dijo Nayeli Garcia, coordinadora de vivienda en el campus de Brownsville. “Conseguimos algo de comida. Tenemos cajas de tacos. Vamos a tener muchas oportunidades

geniales para que, ya sabes, tomen fotos y se diviertan con eso”.

Los asistentes pueden registrarse previamente para el evento en *Eventbrite* para recibir un paquete VIP que incluye una camiseta, una calavera de azúcar y una caja de tacos.

El Ballet Folklórico de UTRGV se presentará en el evento.

“En los últimos años, hemos tenido mucha suerte de que nuestro equipo folklórico de UTRGV haya sido parte de esto”, dijo Garcia. “Estamos muy emocionados de que regresen para que puedan tener sus bailes tradicionales mexicanos y realmente mostrarles a todos la belleza de nuestra cultura latina”.

TRIBUTE
Continued from Page 8

“I like the idea of amphitheatres,” he said. “... It’s another experience. You’re outside and you’re just playing music for an audience. ... It’s just more interactive. [In] a concert hall, there’s a certain etiquette that you have to follow, like, you only clap after a certain time. ... [At an amphitheater], it’s the essence of what, like, community engagement is.”

Magdiel Castle, assistant director of Edinburg Cultural Arts, told *The Rider* the new amphitheater can seat about 1,500 to 2,000 people.

“What [the city] intends the amphitheater to be is a meeting place that creates community and brings the community together,” Castle said.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Bobby Pulido, *conjunto* musician Ricardo Guzman Jr. and Tejano drummer Balde Muñoz will be inducted into the City of Edinburg Walk of Fame in the Region One Education

Service Center-Hidalgo Room at 1900 W. Schunior St.

Previously called the Tejano Walk of Fame, it was rebranded to Walk of Fame so it does not sound like it is only Tejano music, Castle said.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, Edinburg will have the annual Veterans Day Parade, which will start at the Richard R. Flores Stadium.

To see the official festival rules and more information, visit www.edinburgarts.com/emf.

Spooktacular way to get out the vote



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Naomi Valdez, program coordinator for Student Activities (right), signs in students for the Spooktacular Voting Party hosted by the Civic Engagement Alliance last Tuesday at the University Center Circle on the Edinburg campus.



Spanish and education senior Edgar Moreno, psychology sophomore Odalys Saenz and psychology sophomore Rayne Treviño pick designs for their tote bags last Tuesday at the University Center Circle on the Edinburg campus last.



Cris Vazquez (right), a Campus Activities Board member, shows education junior Belinda Cruz different options to print on her shirt last Wednesday in front of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus.



Education junior Vianella Pimentel heat presses a “vote” design on a T-shirt last Wednesday in front of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus.



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