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Edinburg City Council approves airport, DWI grant applications

Andrea Flores
 THE RIDER

Last Tuesday, the Edinburg City Council approved resolutions authorizing the city manager to apply for grants for improvements to the South Texas International Airport and to combat driving-while-intoxicated cases.

The \$825,000 Department of Transportation (DoT) Federal Aviation Administration Airport Terminal Program (ATP) Grant would address needed changes in access and overall improvements to the restrooms in the terminal in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Edinburg Aviation Director Jose Velarde told *The Rider* during an interview last Wednesday that it is important to expand and make the restrooms compatible with ADA requirements.

See **EDINBURG**, Page 8



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER
 Olga Regalado, the Edinburg Housing Authority Deputy Director, poses with her certificate of recognition as the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Outstanding Professional of the Year. Shown with Regalado are Councilmember David White (from left), Councilmember Daniel "Dan" Diaz, Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr, Mayor Pro Tem and Councilmember Johnny Garcia, City Manager Mayra L. Ayala and Councilmember Jason De Leon. Regalado was recognized by the city during last Tuesday's council meeting.

BETTER BROADBAND

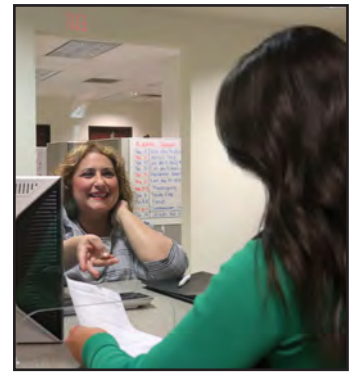
Brownsville officials gather for groundbreaking



Natalie Lapsley/THE RIDER

Brownsville Mayor Trey Mendez signs a vault, which will house the cables that will deliver internet to the city, during the BTX Fiber Broadband groundbreaking last Tuesday in the Brownsville Public Library Main Branch. On Wednesday March 30, the Brownsville City Commission unanimously approved action to enter public-private partnership negotiations for the design and construction of a citywide fiber network, according to a city news release. The release states the network includes a 93-mile middle mile backbone with design to last mile fiber and will connect 32 anchor institutions, including city facilities, police, fire, EMS and public parks. See more photos at utrgvrider.com.

U Central, everything you need from A-Z



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Enrollment Generalist Esmeralda Martinez hands a form to physician assistant graduate student Sandy Garcia at U Central last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus.

Teresita Dominguez
 THE RIDER

U Central is a one-stop shop for most issues or questions students may have regarding registration, FAFSA, tuition and other topics pertaining to their school account.

UTRGV Survival Guide: Third in a Series

Students may use U Central's call center or live online chat in addition to visiting the department's offices on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

"The idea behind the structure of our department is that you come to us," said Vanessa Maldonado, director of Student Services.

"You can ask all of those questions versus needing to speak to one person," Maldonado said. "... Our staff is cross-trained to know pretty much a little bit of every area just to make it [a] more efficient and easier process for students."

See **U CENTRAL**, Page 8

City commission plans to take action

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Natalie Lapsley
 THE RIDER

After a hurricane of emotion from several residents during last Tuesday's Brownsville City Commission meeting, commissioners discussed options, such as amending the city charter and pausing utility bill late fees and disconnections.

Many residents expressed anger and disapproval, saying it was not enough to place John Bruciak, Brownsville Public Utilities Board general manager and chief executive officer, on a paid 60-day administrative leave. The decision was announced during a BPUB special

meeting Oct. 17, according to Cleiri Quezada, BPUB senior communications and public relations coordinator.

On Nov. 1, 2021, the City of Brownsville engaged Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC,

PUB Forensic Examination: Second in a Series

a certified public accounting and advisory firm, to investigate the utility 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 Forensic Examination Report.

Utility rate increases were implemented to fund the project, which never came to fruition. Now, as voiced by residents during the meeting, many BPUB customers cannot afford their bills and continue to fall behind.

One resident who spoke during public comment at the commission meeting, Agripina Gomez, said she nearly got disconnected a second time and that others in the community are experiencing the same thing.

"I see the PUB truck pull up on my driveway, and I go outside running with my baby, and I [say], 'Hey, what's going on?'" Gomez said. "And they wanted to shut off my light. Last month, I got cut off and

See **BROWNSVILLE**, Page 8



Arisbeth Rodriguez /THE RIDER

Ezequiel "Zeke" Silva, a Brownsville resident and owner of S&M Transport, tells the city commissioners that they knew the Tenaska project was "in no way, shape or form going to happen" and continued to "bleed" residents of money during the public comment portion of the Brownsville City Commission meeting Tuesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Graduate College Town Hall

The Student Government Association will host a town hall for students in the Graduate College to discuss their degrees, programs and internship opportunities. The meeting will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.111 on the Brownsville campus.

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. today and Thursday on the Science Promenade on the Edinburg campus.

ALPFA Trunk or Treat Meeting

The Association of Latino Professionals for America will hold a committee meeting to discuss trunk or treat from 2 to 4 p.m. at UTRGV.

Tuesday LGBTQIA+ Brunch

The Council for Cultural Activities will host a brunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. Students can do activities and learn LGBTQIA+ history.

Fostering Success Program

Student Life and Dean of Students and the Fostering Success Program will host a stress management workshop for foster care alumni from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.328 on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Wednesday in Sabal Hall Room 2.106 on the Brownsville campus.

Caring for the Valley Meeting

Caring for the Valley will hold a general meeting from 4 to 5 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.402 on the Brownsville campus.

FIFA 23 Tournament

The Student Union will host a gaming tournament from 5 to 7 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.100 on the Edinburg campus. Students must present their ID to participate. VBucks will be awarded.

Wednesday 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.

Book Club: 'Where the Dead Sit Talking'

The InqSpot Book Club and the Student Union will host a book club meeting for "Where the Dead Sit Talking" from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in the Student Union's

La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

Survival Rules: Zombies

The Student Leadership Academy will host a zombie-themed interactive workshop on team building 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.

Coffee and Careers

The Career Center will hold an informational session for students who might have questions about interviews, internships, resumes and jobs from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom and in person from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.102 on the Brownsville campus.

Spooktacular Movie Night

The Campus Activities Board and University Recreation will hold a trick or treat session at 4 p.m. and will hold a showing of "Scary Movie" from 7 to 10 p.m. at the UREC pool. There will be s'mores.

Thursday English Social

The Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies and the Department of Writing and Language Studies will host a dessert and coffee social from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Center Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 882-8246.

Fall Fright Films: 'The Witch'

The University Library will hold a viewing of "The Witch: The VVitch: A New England Folktale" from noon to 1:35 p.m. in University Library Room 1.118 on the Brownsville campus.

Worship Session

The Baptist Student Ministry will hold a worship session from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. in the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus.

Graphic Thoughts

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

Nightmare in Civil Hall

The American Society of Civil Engineers will host a haunted house from 6 to 9 p.m. in Academic Services Building Room 1.202 on the Edinburg campus. Tickets are \$7 at the Civil Engineering Hall before the event and \$10 at the door.

FLA Boo!-tacular

The Freshman Leadership Academy will sponsor Boo!-tacular, which will feature de-stressing activities, a celebration of birthdays and the chance to win prizes, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the University Center Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus and Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 13 and 20.



Oct. 13

6:21 a.m.: An employee reported that, while working in Lot E-12 on the Edinburg campus, he struck a palm tree while reversing. No injuries were reported.

10:26 a.m.: A student reported that her vehicle, which was parked in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus, was struck when another student opened his driver side door, which caused damage to her vehicle's rear quarter panel. The male student drove away after causing the damage.

12:47 p.m.: A man was reported for asking students for money at the Health Sciences and Human Services West building on the Edinburg campus. An officer escorted the man off campus without further incident.

3:32 p.m.: An officer responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision on the 500 block of North Sugar Road in Edinburg. No injuries were reported.

11:44 p.m.: A UTRGV student reported that his passenger rear door window was broken in Lot E-7 on the Edinburg campus. After video surveillance was reviewed, it appeared that the window broke by itself.

Oct. 14

11:09 a.m.: A student reported that he left his wallet in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. On the same day, the student recovered it from the library's reception area and noticed his money was missing. The case is under investigation.

12:54 p.m.: An officer met with a residential assistant who, while conducting a health and safety inspection, found alcohol in two units in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The alcohol violations will be referred to Student Rights & Responsibilities for possible administrative sanctions.

1:04 p.m.: A female student on the Edinburg campus reported that a male classmate was acting strange while in class and began following her afterward. The officer contacted the male student and told him the female student did not want any contact with him.

Oct. 16

7:53 a.m.: An officer was notified via radio of three subjects crossing the border fence between Lot B-1 and Lincoln Park in Brownsville. UTRGV police officers assisted in the search for the subjects. U.S. Border Patrol detained one subject next to the Casa Bella Apartments. The man claimed to be from Mexico; the other two were not located.

Oct. 17

12:53 p.m.: An employee on the Edinburg campus reported receiving an email about a male student who made an outcry. The employee made an attempt to contact the student, but he did not answer the calls. Officers located the student at his home. The student said he was fine and had no intentions of hurting himself.

2 p.m.: Two male students said they were followed in their vehicle from the Walmart parking lot near the Edinburg

campus and through the campus by two men who called them derogatory names. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 18

11:23 a.m.: Officers responded to a pickup truck on fire in Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus. The truck, belonging to a student, was parked and unattended at the time. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived at the location and extinguished the fire. Three vehicles parked in the vicinity of the truck sustained fire damage. The City of Edinburg Fire Marshal's Office and UTRGV Police Department Criminal Investigations Division are investigating the cause of the fire.

1:27 p.m.: A student organization reported that posters used to advertise their events had been damaged on several occasions on the Brownsville campus.

4:41 p.m.: An employee reported that her wallet was stolen from her open, unattended office in the Center for Innovation and Commercialization in Weslaco. She said her debit card was then used for purchases at multiple locations without her consent. The case is under investigation.

6:31 p.m.: A student reported being shocked by an elevator button located in Liberal Arts North Building on the Edinburg campus. The student declined emergency medical services and the elevator was placed out of service until it can be checked.

Oct. 19

7:10 a.m.: UTRGV police officers assisted the U.S. Border Patrol with a group of subjects who jumped

the border fence by Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. Three men were detained in Lincoln Park by the Border Patrol. Two men claimed to be from El Salvador and the other claimed to be a Mexican national.

12:52 p.m.: A faculty member on the Edinburg campus reported a male student having chest pain during class. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the student to the hospital for further treatment.

2:02 p.m.: A Student Media staff member reported receiving an anonymous phone call from someone wanting to purchase an ad in The Rider and who became agitated while on the phone.

6:06 p.m.: A non-affiliated man injured his arm after falling during a game hosted by the University Recreation Center at the UREC Intramural Field on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the man to the hospital for further treatment.

Oct. 20

1:12 a.m.: An employee reported being stuck in an elevator in the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. An officer and the Edinburg Fire Department arrived and assisted in resetting the switch to open the door. The elevator was placed out of service and a work order was submitted.

4 a.m.: While on foot patrol, an officer observed graffiti on a utility box located on the north side of the Science building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

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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Ask the Expert: Second in a Series

Powers of the governor

Landon Burns
THE RIDER

Each state has a governor, but not all governors are equal. The Texas governor typically ranks around 44th in power, according to Clyde Barrow, a professor and chair of UTRGV's Department of Political Science.

The office has little influence over the state budget, and since Texas utilizes a plural executive, many offices, which would be appointed in other states, are elected in ours. These factors diminish the governor's power. Despite this, the office of governor can be influential within Texas.

"Really, his main source of influence is the fact that he's governor, and he gets a lot of press coverage, and so he can try to use that press coverage to set the agenda and to influence others," Barrow said.

Incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke seem to have different

approaches to the news media.

"Beto O'Rourke is very good at using social media," said Carlos Gutierrez, a lecturer in UTRGV's Department of Political Science. "He has a whole campaign in which he travels from city to city and town to town, but he's also very good at using social media, which bridges very well with young voters. ... He's also stepping up his spending with TV ads, because he also wants to capture that older generation that's not maybe on social media but they are watching TV."

"On the other side, Abbott is not as good [at] using social media. He is trying to target possibly older voters. ... Both of them have been spending millions in TV ads this last election."

Barrow and Gutierrez said another way for a governor to gain influence is as a party builder, since most governors are at the head of their parties within their states. A successful governor may

See EXPERT, Page 8

UTRGV 2022 Election Polling Sites

Early Voting Dates and Times

EDINBURG CAMPUS: Student Academic Center	BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS: Interdisciplinary Academic Building
Today through Saturday, Oct. 29 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Today through Friday, Oct. 28 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Saturday, Oct. 29 and Sunday, Oct. 30 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 31 through Friday, Nov. 4 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 31 through Friday, Nov. 4 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 8 Polling Sites and Times

EDINBURG CAMPUS: Student Academic Center	HARLINGEN CAMPUS: Clinical Education Building Auditorium, Pkts. 44 & 49
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	

source: <https://ed.utrgv.edu/student-activities/involvement/vaquerovillage/early-voting>

Verilu Infante/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Stay Mad because Madness is back



RIDER FILE PHOTO

Students rally during the 2019 UTRGV Madness. The event introduces the basketball teams and features giveaways and contests. UTRGV Madness will take place at 9 p.m. Friday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV's signature event, Madness, is back and will be held at 9 p.m. Friday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Students, faculty and staff will be able to enjoy music, games, giveaways and much more.

Sara Hernández, associate athletics director for Marketing and Strategic Initiative, said Madness is

UTRGV's biggest event on campus every year.

"I would describe it as kind of like a big pep rally, but it's not really a pep rally," Hernández said. "This is the introduction of our basketball teams ... but we also utilize it as an opportunity to really welcome our students into the Fieldhouse and celebrate the UTRGV spirit."

Athletics and Student Activities are collaborating for the event.

Students will be able to enjoy music, games, giveaways and much more during the Pre-Madness Party. The first 700 UTRGV students will receive a special edition T-shirt.

"A lot of the stuff inside is by Athletics but we do have a Pre-Madness Party that Student Activities is helping us with," Hernández said. "So [7 to 9 p.m.] is outside Vaquero Village, and then [9 to 11 p.m.], that's Madness inside."

She said UTRGV Madness will also have prizes from their sponsors.

"We have about five big prizes that we are going to give out," Hernandez said.

As part of Madness, Athletics is also going to host a dance competition.

"We have our student organization dance-off and this we do every year," she said. "They give like a two-minute performance and we have some judges and it's also a good opportunity for us to really showcase our student organizations."

Hernández encourages students to attend the event.

"This is really the biggest event of the year when it comes to school spirit," she said. "It's a free event. It's a Friday night so there's no school on Saturday and I think it gives students an opportunity to really make some friends."

Hernández said she hopes UTRGV Madness helps students engage with campus life.

"I'm hoping that some of our

students that came last year made some friends that night and that maybe that was the beginning of their journey as UTRGV students," she said. "And how proud they are to wear orange and to really foster and to really embody what UTRGV and being a Vaquero means."

There will be a shuttle for students to take from Brownsville to Edinburg.

"We haven't finalized the number, but there will be about 40 spots," Hernández said. "Everyone who rides the bus will get a guaranteed T-shirt."

The shuttle will depart at 5 p.m. from the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus and return after Madness is over. Students can RSVP through V Link. The shuttle will only be available for UTRGV students.

The event will be open for the UTRGV and Rio Grande Valley community.

"We are expecting a full house, about 2,500 people," Hernández said.

The clear bag policy will be enforced for the event. Clear bags may not exceed 12-by-6-by-12 inches. Exceptions will be made for diaper or medically necessary bags. For more information on the policy, visit goutrgv.com.

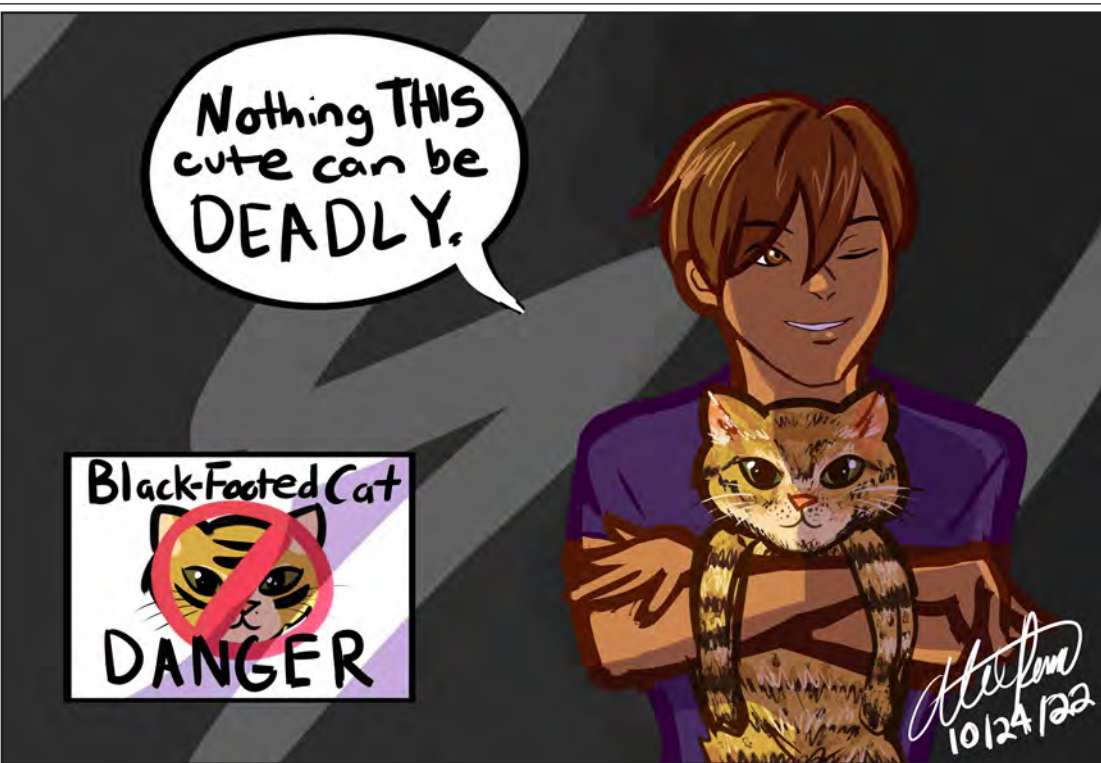
Carlos Alberto Acosta, a music sophomore, said he is excited to attend Madness.

"It was great, I got to meet a lot of new people," he said when describing the event. See MADNESS, Page 8

Have A Story Idea?

Let us know what you want to see in THE RIDER at

882-5143 or 665-2541



An unsavory statement



Alejandro Peña

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

I remember watching historical fiction movies about many artists of the past in my sixth grade art class. In a movie I saw about Van Gogh, most outsiders really would not appreciate what he has made, and even now, it feels that way.

His “Sunflower” painting, which is exhibited at the National Gallery in London, recently had soup thrown at it by a couple of people who were trying to spread a message about saving the environment.

I feel like it’s a recent trend to just hate artists, old and new.

Artists now have to deal with robots taking over their jobs. Artists of the past are not safe from people who do not respect their legacy and history. Marilyn Monroe and Bob Ross are also two names that come to mind.

It’s sad that the dead can’t

be left alone, even when they are gone.

People can take their items, such as a sparkling one-of-a-kind dress or an artwork, and do whatever they want.

Along with that, people will say, “It’s just an item,” like there wasn’t any meaning to it before. It’s not like people are making anything new with said items, even as inspiration.

They are just being ruined for no reason or failing to spread a message with it being overpowered by the act itself. Was the message really effective if nobody truly understood the point?

Artists of the past are not safe from people who do not respect their legacy and history.

I see this type of conversation in the doll repainting community about removing the faces of rare dolls and I understand why it’s an issue, as a collector myself. The original base doll can be considered a piece of art itself.

Designers and artists had to come up with the look of the original figure but in my eyes, I think it is more worth it for someone to use it to make their own art. They are making new art with the past art. When it comes to what happened with Van Gogh’s painting or Marilyn Monroe’s

dress, I can’t really say the same.

I hate that the conversation went to trying to defend the action because who cares about the past and we should focus on what happens now because it just seems very dismissive. We are supposed to learn from the past to avoid the same mistakes. People can care about two things at once and one doesn’t have to be ignored. It’s valid to talk about current issues from this incident but it comes off so wrong to me.

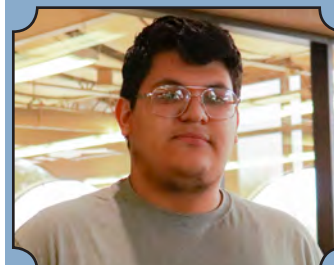
The way that people just don’t care at all genuinely bothers me. From what I understand, Van Gogh is not even a bad person. I would understand this attitude if he was a terrible person, but it doesn’t feel like the case.

Is it just the cool thing to not care when something like this happens? Is it shameful to feel any kind of emotion, over, at the end of the day, an object? It probably is, but I like to think it means that the person left an impact on people, to become an inspiration to others that some people care if something happens to their work.

Van Gogh put passion into his work and even if he didn’t, he still put a lot of energy into making them. As an artist, I feel like we should remember that when looking at art. There was value to it even before the artists’ death.



Should parents track their children’s location?



Jesus Gutierrez
cyber security freshman

“That’s kind of up to the kid themselves, you know. If the kid wants to feel safe by letting [the parents] know where they are, that’s up to them. But if the kid feels like maybe they don’t want as much, like, personal information from the parents, then that’s up to them. It’s just a personal decision.”

“That’s a tricky [one]. I recently had an encounter with my mom.

It was a few days ago; she was just worried. I would say, no. It’s going [into] their privacy and second of all, it pretty much shows that they don’t trust them. The whole concept between parents and children is that you bond trust. ... Like, I know that they’re not going to do anything wrong, so I should, like, rely on them and trust them so, yeah, so it’s a no. And also, it’s very weird.”



Vanessa Vega
visual communication design junior



Larry Hinojosa
integrated health science freshman

“I don’t think so. I think it more depends on the child itself. Like, there are those kids that they’ll do anything to get away from their parents, like, ‘cause there are some very over-protective parents out there. I know from experience, like my mom. I can’t even drive. I’m 18. I passed my driver’s test and I’m not even allowed to drive ‘cause she doesn’t trust me. She thinks I’ll drive to Mexico or something. I don’t know. But no, I don’t think parents should track their children’s location.”

“Depende de la situación. Si los niños son muy rebeldes que no pueden ser confiados, ahí sí. Si tienen una historia que han hecho mal, que han salido fuera de sus tiempos [y] que no escuchan a sus papás, [si]. Pero si no hacen eso deberían de tener la libertad de escoger a donde ir porque, pues, ellos han estado bien. Entonces esa es mi opinión en eso”.



Jaime Iparrea
estudiante de tercer año en ingeniería mecánica

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

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER BE ABLE TO TALK WITH ANIMALS OR SPEAK ALL FOREIGN LANGUAGES?

<p>HI! BONJOUR HOLA!</p> <p>68% Speak foreign languages</p>	<p></p> <p>32% Talk with animals</p>
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Visit us online at utrgvrider.com to participate

AIR MAIL PAR AVION

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter’s author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

U Central, todo lo que necesitas de la A a la Z

Teresita Dominguez
THE RIDER

U Central es una ventanilla única para la mayoría de los problemas o preguntas que los estudiantes puedan tener con respecto a la registración, FAFSA (por sus siglas en inglés), la matrícula y otros temas relacionados con su cuenta escolar.

Guía de supervivencia de UTRGV: el tercero de una serie

Los estudiantes pueden usar el centro de llamadas de U Central o el chat en vivo en línea además de visitar las oficinas del departamento en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg.

“La idea detrás de la estructura de nuestro departamento es que vengas a nosotros”, dijo Vanessa Maldonado, directora de Servicios Estudiantiles.

“Puede hacer todas esas preguntas en lugar de tener que hablar con una sola persona”, dijo Maldonado. “... Nuestro personal está capacitado para conocer prácticamente un poco de cada área solo para que sea [un] proceso más eficiente y fácil para los estudiantes”.

Maldonado dijo que si un estudiante tiene un problema complejo que requiere información más detallada, U Central se comunicará con el departamento correspondiente, pero el personal está capacitado para manejar y responder todas las preguntas.

La Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Estudiantil se abrió a principios de este mes y la fecha límite prioritaria es el 15 de enero.

U Central cuenta con personal que puede ayudar a los estudiantes con FAFSA y el proceso de Solicitud de Ayuda



Aura Velasquez/FOTO RIDER

La estudiante graduada asistente médica Sandy Garcia llena un formulario en U Central el miércoles pasado en el campus de Brownsville.

Financiera Estatal de Texas.

Ruth Torres, subdirectora de Ayuda Financiera, enfatizó la importancia de completar el FAFSA temprano y obtener ayuda para completar la solicitud si es necesario.

“Pueden llamar al [882-4026] o pueden venir a U Central y hacer la cita con el asesor o incluso enviar un correo electrónico”, dijo Torres.

El correo electrónico de U Central es ucentral@utrgv.edu. Se puede acceder al chat en vivo a través de su sitio web.

También dijo que el enlace para la condonación de préstamos públicos está disponible en el sitio web de U Central y alienta a los estudiantes a aprovechar la oportunidad.

“[El enlace] lo llevará directamente a la aplicación donde solo debe completar [la información] y es muy fácil”, dijo Torres. “... Son como cinco preguntas y luego las envías”.

El horario de atención de U Central es de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. lunes, miércoles y viernes, de 8 a.m. a 6 p.m. martes y de 9 a.m. a 5 a.m. jueves, según su sitio web.

En Brownsville, U Central está ubicada en The Tower (Sala 1.100 del edificio principal) y en el primer piso del Edificio de Servicios Estudiantiles en el campus de Edinburg.

“Prácticamente no hay que esperar en ninguna de nuestras oficinas, por lo que este es realmente el momento de seguir adelante y completar la FAFSA”, dijo Maldonado. “El registro está a la vuelta de la esquina, así que encarguese de todas esas cosas lo más rápido posible. Nos complace ayudarlo”.



Midterm Elections Early Voting

Oct. 24 - Nov. 4

ESTAC Lobby & BINAB Lobby

Make a plan.
Vote early on campus.



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



Octubafest: an evening of low brass vibrations

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

One misconception people might have about the tuba is that it simply sits in the back of the group and plays the baseline, but the School of Music's Octubafest breaks that stereotype.

The UTRGV Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble will host its annual "Octubafest" at 7 p.m. Friday in the Performing Arts Complex.

The concert will consist of classical and polka music, as well as pieces written for the tuba ensemble by UTRGV composition Professor Justin Writer. Admission is free.

Scott Roeder, associate professor of tuba and euphonium, conducts the ensemble and told *The Rider* the concert is a "mixed bag" of pieces.

"It'll be an enjoyable concert," Roeder said. "It's all very audience friendly. It's all very melodic in traditional harmonies and there's not too much in there that would be considered, like, avant garde. ... I think most ... will enjoy the music."

Roeder said the original concept of Octubafest came from Harvey Phillips, a tuba professor at Indiana University in the 1970s.



PHOTO COURTESY VALLERIE HERNANDEZ

Associate Professor Scott Roeder conducts last year's Octubafest performance. This year, Octubafest will take place at 7 p.m. Friday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

"Harvey's whole thing and his mission in life was to expose people to the tuba and euphonium to get a better understanding of what it is, what it can do, because there's

been a lot of misconceptions over the years of [tuba] not being, like, a real instrument or serious musicians," Roeder said. "And that was his mission in life, to change

that. So, he promoted events that will do that and Octubafest is one of those events."

Starting the Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble and Octubafest at legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American in 2009, Roeder said he never thought about the long-term goals when starting the programs. He just knew "it needed to be done."

With just one missed performance during 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Roeder said it feels exciting to be back to some normalcy.

"Yeah, it's great that ... we have this tradition of things that we do," he said. "It wasn't something that I really set out to do ... but we did it and we just kept doing them."

Pablo Salinas, a music education senior, told *The Rider* he has been part of the Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble since 2017 but is not participating this semester to focus on school. But he is excited to support them.

"I loved every minute of it," Salinas said. "Going to the rehearsals, practicing on my own, listening to the music, just really getting involved with everything about it. I truly enjoy

See **OCTUBAFEST**, Page 8

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-Use free time wisely by investing it in yourself. Take 20 to 30 minutes a day to write a reflective journal, meditate or do any self-care activity. Soon you'll be learning new things about yourself that you didn't know before. Devote this new chapter to finding peace within yourself and loving every aspect of life.

Leo-Confusion may arise once you start making new choices for yourself. This lack of guidance might throw you off but keep the end goal in mind. Once you've found the rhythm, everything else will start to happen naturally. Don't lose hope or sight of what you desire.

Sagittarius-The new road you are on will lead to great success. Keep making small progress by taking days off when necessary. Allowing your body to rest and recharge is good for your mental health. Doing this for yourself goes a long way and will provide the motivation you've been seeking.

Libra-Instead of overthinking about what you're going through, spend time making adjustments on what isn't right. Stop letting time go by contemplating the "what ifs" and act upon what is factual. Make your life worth it by having fun instead of complaining about any minor inconvenience.

Gemini-Now is the time to speak about what is on your mind. The people around you are ready to listen and give you assistance if needed. Get everything off your chest by speaking your truth and watch the cloud above you disappear. Before long, your mood and day will start to improve greatly.

Aquarius-Getting ready for a getaway? Before you fly off to vacation, make sure everything at home is taken care of. It is better to return with everything settled than to come back to a messy situation. You want to be able to relax from traveling and share your experiences without worrying.

Scorpio-Exciting events are starting to arise. Because of this, remember to start planning accordingly. Don't lose sight of what has to be done first before attending. Avoid getting stuck having fun and falling behind. This is far from the position you want to be in, so take measures now.

Pisces-Not every day has to be entertaining and thrilling. It is perfectly normal to have a chill day to get things done. If it is really bothering you, try playing a board game with family or friends when staying indoors or start a new show. However, don't forget to get important tasks out of the way first.

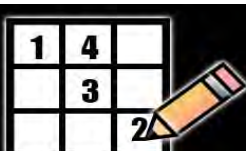
Cancer-These next months will be the start of something new you've been anticipating. Be patient and open to whatever or whoever makes an appearance because you never know what the outcome can be. In the meantime, try to secure your heart by determining what you need out of this situation.

Taurus-Try spending quality time with family this week. They have been missing you more than you can imagine. Sit down for dinner and discuss what has been happening in your life and vice versa. Nothing is better than creating memories with those you love.

Virgo-A difficult situation in your life has come to an end; however, don't let this mess with your emotions. Take it for what it is and keep a positive mindset. Remember that things happen for a reason. The universe is always making room for something better.

Capricorn-Although it can be difficult to depend on someone else, keep in mind that, sometimes, help is what we need. There may be a partnership forming in the near future. Don't fear this collaboration; instead, embrace it. This can spark new opportunities that are helpful toward your goals.

Sudoku



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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña



Athlete of the week
Andrea Gallardo



PHOTO COURTESY VASHAUN NEWMAN

Andrea Gallardo, a kinesiology sophomore from Sharyland, is a runner on the UTRGV Women's Cross-Country Team.

Q: What is your favorite show/movie?

A: "I love to watch Disney and Pixar movies. You can never go wrong with those. My favorite shows are 'Bridgerton,' 'The Vampire Diaries,' 'Gilmore Girls' and 'Stranger Things.'"

Q: How did you get into running cross-country?

A: "Well, I started running in the fourth grade. Running has brought me so much joy and happiness in my life and I can relate it to life. Like, if there is a race or getting a job interview, if you don't get to this one, there'll be more opportunities in the future."

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

A: "My biggest inspiration and role model I would have to say has to be my family. My mom, my dad, my sister, they have been such a great influence in my life. They always influenced me and guided me to always do my best in academics and athletics, both equally important. They've helped me become the person I am today, both as a sister and a daughter, everything in general. They've always been my No. 1 supporters. I can't ask anything [more] from them. They've always been there for me and I appreciate it."

Q: How do you balance sports and academics?

A: "Well, I've been a student athlete for most of my life, since I was in junior high, middle school, high school and college. I mean, I think I've gotten pretty used to balancing school. And with athletics, I feel like I've had a lot of help. I mean, administration, staff, teachers, coaches, they want you to get things done. So I think my time management skills have been improving over the years with running, athletics and school."

--Compiled by Matthew Gonzalez

Women's tennis team reflects on season, so far



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV Women's Tennis freshman Yaiza Vazquez and seniors Isabelle Bahr and Kristyna Mamicova work on drills during practice last Wednesday at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus.

Jose Medina
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women's Tennis Team had a pretty strong start this season, ending their first team tournament with 11 wins earlier this month.

Head coach West Nott thinks the team has definitely improved since the start of the season, saying 50% of the roster from last year was replaced.

"We made excellent progress this fall, and I think just having some fresh new players," Nott said. "We also hired an assistant coach. ... Just everything coming together for this first tournament."

Asked how the team has improved, Nott replied it comes down to implementing the best attitude out there.

"We focus a lot on character development, making sure we have a positive attitude out there, regardless of the circumstances that happened," he said.

Nott attributes the improvement to "quality of work," then taking it from there.

Asked how they stay motivated during the season, he said it takes working and talking with them one on one.

"Once I kind of earn the trust of each player, then it's easier to coach them up and just share my side of things and we come together and try to execute the plan together," Nott said.

Next up for the Vaqueras is the

University of the Incarnate Word Cardinal Classic, which will take place Friday through Sunday in San Antonio.

"We are really excited," Nott said about the tournament. "We love to compete. That's when we find out how each individual handles the pressure situation."

she said. "And now we are more like a team, and together we are practicing very good."

Vazquez said she stays motivated along with her teammates, even when they are tired.

At the same tournament, senior Stefanie Wilske and freshman Valentina Urraco secured a 6-4 win during a doubles match.

Wilske said she is getting over an injury and that getting ready physically is one of her goals at the moment.

"Just my performance right now, I think I'm just happy and I know I'm improving," she said.

Asked how they have been improving during the season, Wilske replied that she has been focusing on getting better.

"I have been focusing just on ... building up my confidence," she said.

Wilske also thinks they have been growing as a team.

"The team chemistry is really good," she said. "The energy is getting way better. Of course, there are some days where we don't feel like [giving] our [100%]."

"We are tired—school, everything. But I think, right now, we are doing a great job. We all know we have a common goal, so we are working on that."

After the Cardinal Classic, the women will host the UTRGV Tennis College-Am Nov. 12 at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus.

For more information, visit <https://goutrgv.com/sports/womens-tennis/schedule>.

"We focus a lot on character development, making sure we have a positive attitude out there, regardless of the circumstances that happened."

--West Nott
Women's Tennis head coach

"The fall is really about competing individually, while we represent UTRGV, but in the spring we play with a lineup against other teams. And that's, really, the meaningful part of our season."

He said the fall will help identify which players are going to be high in the lineup and to figure out how everyone will handle pressure.

Freshman tennis player Yaiza Vazquez and senior Valeria Montero won a doubles match 6-3 during the Texas State University Invitational Oct. 8-9 in San Marcos.

Vazquez said she felt more like a team with the rest of the players.

"In my case, I'm a freshman, and when I started training, practice with my teammates was a very good impression,"

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

<p>Men's Soccer</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Wednesday vs. University of the Incarnate Word At the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex</p>	<p>Women's Soccer</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Thursday vs. Abilene Christian University At the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex</p>	<p>Volleyball</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Thursday vs. Stephen F. Austin University At the UTRGV Fieldhouse</p>
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EDINBURG*Continued from Page 1*

"I think the last revision of ADA, as far as accessibility, was about 10-plus years ago, approximately," Velarde said.

If received, the grant would also help with changes to the aging infrastructure, which he said is around 20 years old. Velarde also said the changes are not urgent but are imperative improvements to increase savings within the electricity consumption of the airport.

"We would be changing from fluorescent [lights] there to LED, so the consumption of electricity would be much less, and we probably have fewer fixtures because of the efficiency of LED lighting," he said. "There are more efficient windows, for instance, that have a UV blocking

technology. Ours are just, you know, simple double-pane glass, so they're inherently inefficient."

The city will request \$825,000 and will contribute \$75,000 in matching funds from the Department of Aviation's operating budget.

South Texas International Airport will compete with other commercial-serving and non-primary airports for the grant, which encompasses at least 10% of the \$1 billion the DoT Federal Aviation Administration is sponsoring.

The Edinburg Police Department will seek \$75,256.78 from the Texas Department of Transportation's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)-Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) grant.

From its General Fund Operating Budget, the city will dedicate \$15,051.36 for the project, which

together with the grant will total \$90,308.14.

If received, the grant will provide overtime and fringe costs for commissioned police officers to conduct driving while intoxicated (DWI) enforcement activities during four two-week mobilizations periods.

Police officers would focus on combating impaired driving during the Christmas-New Year's time period, which would be from Dec. 14 to Jan. 1 2023; spring break in March; Independence Day, which would cover the months of June and July; and, Labor Day, which would cover the months of August and September.

In an interview with The Rider, Edinburg Police Lt. Reynaldo Sepulveda said the department would have three officers working an eight-hour shift during those holiday

periods.

"The importance of this grant is, during the holiday season, people do consume a little more alcohol than normal, and they do drink and drive and we're trying to prevent this," Sepulveda said. "Hopefully, we prevent an accident from happening. We do have fatalities in our city just like all over the state and it's important that we try to reduce these fatalities."

He also said this is the first time the department will apply for the IDM grant for overtime activities for DWI prevention enforcement. Sepulveda said the grant will help taxpayers and save the department money, which could then be used for other programs.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holiday season, but we also want everyone to be safe," Sepulveda said.

U CENTRAL*Continued from Page 1*

Maldonado said that if a student has a complex issue that requires more detailed information, U Central will contact the appropriate department, but the staff is trained to handle and answer all questions.

The Free Application for Student Aid opened at the beginning of this month, with the priority deadline being Jan. 15.

U Central has staff that can help

students with the FAFSA and Texas Application for State Financial Aid process.

Ruth Torres, assistant director of Financial Aid, stressed the importance of completing the FAFSA early and getting assistance in completing the application if needed.

"They can call [882-4026] or they can come into U Central and make the appointment with the adviser or even send an email," Torres said.

The email for U Central is ucentral@utrgv.edu. The live chat can be accessed

through its website.

She also said the link for public loan forgiveness is available on the U Central website and encourages students to take advantage of the opportunity.

"[The link] will take you directly to the application where you just fill in [the information] and it's super easy," Torres said. "... It's just, like, five questions and then you submit."

U Central hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday

and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, as per its website.

In Brownsville, U Central is located at The Tower (Main Building Room 1.100) and on the first floor of the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus.

"There is pretty much no wait at any one of our offices, so this is really the time to go ahead and fill out the FAFSA," Maldonado said. "Registration is right around the corner so take care of all that stuff as quickly as possible. We're happy to help."

BROWNSVILLE*Continued from Page 1*

I had to pay the \$75 fee to reconnect and now they wanted to do it again. ... I didn't receive a courtesy call. ... I didn't receive anything."

She called for an investment in clean energy and for accountability across the board.

"We need more than to have Mr. Bruciak on, you know, vacation leave," Gomez said.

During the public hearing on the amendment to Ordinance 2022-1702, City Attorney Victor Flores said only state and federal agencies have the jurisdiction to assert charges against those involved in the Tenaska Project.

"I've connected [Carr, Riggs & Ingram] with the federal agency and instructed them to provide them with any documents they might request," Flores said. "... The city and city attorney's office will continue cooperating with all investigating authorities."

The city charter currently allows BPUB to act as its own entity with full authority over the utilities systems.

A long-term solution would be to revise the charter so the commission

can better regulate the utilities board; however, this cannot be done until May 2023 because revisions are limited to once every two years, according to Flores.

The city attorney also presented current legal options, which include the commission's approval of an advance rollback date on utility rates. Flores said commissioners could approve the change since the utilities board already authorized a 22% rollback on utility bills, which the commission approved during an April 19 meeting, and gave the city discretion over when to implement it.

To do this, the commission would need to amend Ordinance 2022-1702, which states that the 22% rollback would be implemented in two phases, each consisting of an 11% rollback, the first originally set to take effect June 2023.

Flores recommended directing city staff to begin gathering information that relates to a charter election so the revisions can be made.

District 2 City Commissioner Jessica Tetreau, Mayor Trey Mendez, City Commissioner At-Large "B" Rose Gowen, District 3 City Commissioner

Roy De Los Santos and District 4 City Commissioner Pedro Cardenas all agreed revisions must be made as soon as possible, but that it was important to do so carefully, because if something is missed, the charter would be locked in for another two years.

De Los Santos asked if a special election could be held in 2023, so the commission would not rush to make a May deadline, which Flores confirmed.

City Commissioner At-Large "A" John Cowen Jr. brought up the \$29 million that BPUB has in a Tenaska equity fund, and said the city should also calculate what it received from rate increases and pay the residents back.

"There is a component that the City of Brownsville received from the rate increases as well during that time," Cowen said. "... The city should do its part in calculating that. It's the ratepayers' money."

Tetreau agreed.

District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizaña said she understands everyone's frustration and the desire to see things happen quickly.

"If it looks like we're not moving fast enough, it's because there are these rules and guidelines in place to give

everyone an opportunity to do what they need to do," Pizaña said. "... Just because this report came out does not mean that it's the final word of truth. ... We are working as quickly as we can and within the rules."

The commission unanimously voted to approve the amendment of Ordinance 2022-1702 on first reading to make the rate reduction effective sooner.

After the meeting, Mendez issued the following statement on Facebook:

"Today, the City Commission voted to move up the date for a previously scheduled 11% reduction in electric rates for PUB. The action will require a second reading at our next meeting, and will go into effect in a few weeks instead of June 2023."

"Further, last night the PUB Board voted to postpone disconnections and waive late fees until February 2023. This will require approval of the City Commission, which we intend to do within the next week through a special meeting."

"Thank you to everyone who has voiced concerns. Understand that we are doing as much as we can as a city commission."

EXPERT*Continued from Page 3*

eventually have a state legislature that will support his or her policies and laws. Governors serving long enough may also be able to cut deals with those across the party line.

"The longer a governor is in power, the longer he is able to foster relations with different members of the legislature," Gutierrez said. "He's able to bridge the divide."

This is important, because both parties require votes from each other in order to pass legislation. In this sense, the governor can be what Gutierrez calls "a power broker."

If O'Rourke were to defeat Abbott, who is on his second term, he would have to be careful not to alienate potential allies in both parties, since he is not as established.

There are other ways for Texas governors to exert influence.

Barrow said there is a line-item veto, which allows the governor to "go through the budget and take things out" without rejecting the whole budget. This gives the governor the ability to put pressure on individual politicians.

Although outside line-item veto, the governor's budget authority is minimal. Neither Abbott nor O'Rourke would have much ability to change the budget.

However, using the power of the governor's office, they can still strive to serve the people.

Josue Valeriano, a freshman nursing major at UTRGV, said "I want [a governor] to focus on integrity and actually getting things done—not just parading around."

MADNESS*Continued from Page 3*

how his experience was attending the event last year. "It gave me an idea of what UTRGV culture is all about."

Cassandra Castillo, an anthropology sophomore and UTRGV Pep Band member, said she is looking forward to attending UTRGV Madness for the first time.

"It's my first year here so I haven't [attended] that event yet," she said. "I have to go for [the UTRGV] Pep Band and I'm pretty excited for it."

Castillo said the event is a good opportunity to meet new people.

"I think it's important because it gives us a chance to see who we are going to school with and to be able to socialize with people we have never seen," she said.

OCTUBAFEST*Continued from Page 6*

playing. That's kind of, like, one of the biggest reasons why I liked coming to the university."

Excited to support his colleagues, Salinas said he knows most of the music that will be performed but wants to see what they will bring to the table this year. He also encourages everyone to come out and support the ensemble.

"I feel like a lot of people in the community aren't aware of what a euphonium even is," Salinas said. "And I feel like it should be introduced more into the community ... just so people can hear what it sounds like. A lot of people have never heard of tubas and euphoniums and it's, honestly, a very magical thing."



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