TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 15





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Football on the horizon

UTRGV responds to TikTok ban

Brigitte Ortiz THE RIDER

In a Dec. 7 news release, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that Texas state agencies are banned from using TikTok on any government-issued devices due to cybersecurity reasons.

To comply with the ban, the university issued a block from wired and wireless networks that became effective Dec. 20.

Kevin Crouse, chief information security officer, said the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese intelligence have direct links to ByteDance, a technology company in Beijing, China, that owns TikTok.

The reason there is a national security concern is because

For more information, call the Information Security Office at 665-7823 or email is@utrgv.edu.

under the 2017 National Intelligence Law in China, all corporations must cooperate with Chinese intelligence and give them access to any data they request, according to Crouse.

"TikTok harvests vast amounts of data from its users' devices—including when, where, and how they conduct Internet activity—and offers this trove of potentially sensitive information to the Chinese government," the news release states.

In a Dec. 9 email to the campus community, the UTRGV Information Security Office and the Office of the Chief Information Officer wrote that several steps would be taken to comply with the order.

Gov. Abbott ordered

WOTION FALS Vote to remove utilities board chair falls through; CEO retires

THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

The Brownsville City Commission discussed whether to remove Brownsville Public Utilities Board Chair Sandra Saenz during its meeting on Jan 3. Shown are District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizaña (from left), City Commissioner At-Large "A" John Cowen Jr., Mayor Trey Mendez, District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos and District 4 City Commissioner Pedro Cardenas.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com
Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

During the Brownsville City Commission meeting on Jan. 3, District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos moved to remove Chair Sandra Saenz from the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, but the motion failed.

"This is brought about in the interest of the fact that we've got the audit ... that PUB has received on the Tenaska project," De los Santos said as he made the motion. "There was action taken to place [BPUB Chief Executive Officer John Bruciak] on 60 days administrative leave. The 60 days have come and gone and there has been no word and no action."

District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizaña later asked De los Santos about the board's transparency.

"I understand that maybe there was no public comment," Galonsky Pizaña said. "Have you ever, though, gone to the meetings or asked, for yourself, board members or PUB staff [questions that] they did not answer?"

De los Santos responded that the board never left his questions unanswered.

"As I said, the motion was about a failure to act,

UTRGV cheer and dance teams prepare for the new year

<u>Teresita Dominguez</u>

THE RIDER

Following the much-anticipated expansion of the UTRGV Spirit Program, newly hired coaches Isela 'Sel' Gomez and Rudy Mata spoke about what the expansion means to them as cheer and dance coaches, respectively.

Filling a position that had not existed before, Gomez is the first fulltime head coach for the UTRGV Spirit Program.

"There was no full-time head coach positions," Gomez said. "There were only two part-time coach positions. One [position] was for dance, one was for cheer. They would only [attend], like, after school for a few hours because they had full-time jobs."

Having a full-time coach is a positive

change and makes a big difference, according to senior dance captain Georgina Guerra.

Guerra said in the four years she has been on the team, it has been mostly student-led due to previous coaches having a limited number of hours available to work with them.

"There's no more excuses of saying that, 'Oh, I'm just part time," Guerra said. "With full time, they're here the whole time, 24/7. ... Our previous coach was a great coach, but ... when she wasn't here, it was kind of just hard for us to, like, grow at a collegiate level."

As head coach, Gomez overlooks the cheer and dance teams as well as the mascot.

Originally hired for an administrative role as program coordinator, due to

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

Dance education seniors Andrew Mireles (from left) and Victoria Garcia, communication science and disorders junior Alysse Hernandez, civil engineering senior Georgina Guerra and dance education freshman Angel Vega practice their jazz routine for the UTRGV Dance Team in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday **Reservation Training**

The **Center for Involvement** will Student host a meeting from 9 to 10 a.m. via Zoom to teach student organizations how to reserve events.

S'mores and Stuff

The Student Union will host a daytime campfire from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. There will be games and free

food. Wednesday

Sex-ed Tabling

Access for Sex-Education will hold a tabling event to discuss information and resources offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Block Party

UTRGV will host a Block Party to welcome students,

staff and faculty from noon to 3 p.m. in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. There will be music, entertainment and games.

Thursday **Late Nite**

University Recreation will host a night of fun from 9 p.m. to midnight at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. Students will get the chance to play games and win prizes.

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 2 and 11.

Jan. 2

2:39 p.m.: A student reported that his bicycle was stolen from the bike rack outside the Liberal Arts Building South the Edinburg on campus.

Jan. 3

8:47 a.m.: A student reported being slapped in the face by her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend on Jan. 2 outside the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

9:34 p.m.: An officer assisted U.S. Border Patrol in apprehending two non-affiliated women who crossed the border fence near Lot B-1, then ran onto the Brownsville campus.

Jan. 5 7:55 p.m.: An officer was dispatched

to the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus regarding a welfare concern. The officer spoke with a male student who appeared to be ill. Emergency medical services responded to the scene and evaluated the student, who declined transportation to a hospital.

11:07 p.m.: A custodial employee discovered several individuals inside the men's and women's restrooms on the second floor of Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. The individuals, who may have recently crossed the border fence, ran from the area before the officer's arrival.

Jan. 9

12:03 p.m.: A parent reported not hearing from her son, a current student, since the previous night when he left their off-campus residence in Edinburg. Officers located the student at an off-campus location and determined the student

was OK. Jan. 10

4:39 p.m.: Officers responded to the Main Building on the Brownsville campus in reference to a student using vulgar language toward an employee. Officers contacted the victim and the student, who was agitated over waiting to obtain his transcript. The victim stated he did not want to file criminal charges, so the student was identified and then left the area without further incident. Jan. 11

7 a.m.: An officer discovered the U.S. and Texas flags were missing from the flagpole located directly in front of the University Library on the Brownsville campus. It is unknown at this time if the flags were stolen or if UTRGV personnel removed them.

8:46 a.m.: A student reported feeling unsafe when she observed a male student outside the Mathematics &

Science Academy building on the Edinburg campus. She said she has seen the student at several other locations on campus and that he stares at her, which makes her feel uncomfortable. The incident is under further investigation.

8:22 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the UTRGV Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to the odor of marijuana coming from an apartment. The officers spoke with male student residents, during which the officers smelled the odor of marijuana. After further investigation, a small quantity of marijuana and drug paraphernalia were discovered in the possession of two of the residents. The contraband was seized, and the students were each issued a court appearance citation for possession of drug paraphernalia (a class C misdemeanor).

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Information Resources to "develop a model plan for other state agencies that would address vulnerabilities presented by the use of TikTok on personal devices by January 15, 2023," the news release states.

State agencies will then have until Feb. 15 to implement their own policy governing the use of TikTok on personal devices.

"We don't know for sure yet, because we have not seen any drafts of the model plan," Crouse said. "So we don't know if there's going to be other social media or other kinds of devices or softwares or things like that, that they're going to include."

He said the university will communicate to students the reason why the governor banned TikTok and things to be careful of when it comes to data collection.

"There's the data collection piece where not only can they collect the information that you're doing on TikTok, you give them access to your camera, to your microphone and to your data," Crouse said. "So they're winding up able

to check and see what kind of web searches you do. They're able to pull that information from your phone.³

He said TikTok is also able to track a phone's GPS data, an issue with any kind of social media platform.

The Dec. 9 email also states "any departments that are using TikTok accounts for school, work, or any other official UTRGV purposes business should contact University Marketing and Communications."

Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV associate vice president for Marketing and the Communications, said department wants to make sure that any university entity that wants to keep its TikTok videos is able to do so before canceling its account.

Asked if the accounts will be deleted, Gonzales replied via "UTRGV departments email, using TikTok accounts for school, work, or any other official UTRGV business purposes should stop using the platform.'

He said the university does not want to put anybody in harm's way because of privacy issues. "I don't think we'll notice much of a difference as far as engagement," Gonzales said.

TIKTOK BAN **AT UTRGV**

- No longer allowed on university devices
- No longer accessible through EDUROAM Wi-Fi
- UTRGV videos will be archived

Source: UTRGV

"But, again, if we're being asked to do this for privacy concerns, then, obviously, I don't think the benefits of TikTok outweigh ensuring the privacy of our university and our university community."

said otherwise. Resendez students like to watch TikToks and videos posted by the going to tell them [through TikTok]."

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

the ban, visit Governor Abbou Orders Aggressive Action Students Against TikTok. can also call the Information Security Office at 665-7823 or email is@utrgv.edu.

For more information on

Criminal justice freshman Randy Resendez believes university.

"People are still going to find a way to [use TikTok], like with their own data," he said. "They want to see TikTok. They want to see what the university is



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

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SGA to continue initiatives through Spring 2023



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

SGA members review training materials last Tuesday in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. The purpose of the training is to better prepare the members for any obstacles ahead in regard to the association, according to SGA President Jonathan Dominguez.

Andrea Flores

The Student Government Association Executive Team plans to continue working on course availability, member representation, the Parking and Transportation Services survey and student incentivization for the Spring 2023 semester.

During the SGA's last senate meeting on Dec. 2, President Jonathan Dominguez said the executive team met with the deans for the College of Sciences and talked about course availability for the biology major.

In an interview with The Rider, Dominguez said that there was a problem with the Bachelor of Science in Biology, focus in Biological Sciences (Pre-Health Professions) degree plan.

There were four concentrations for the biological sciences focus from which students needed to fulfill one

Large "A" John Cowen Jr. voted nay.

representative for [his] landlord."

property, but he did not respond.

anything illegal," he said.

not because of anything unethical, not because of

De los Santos and District 2 City Commissioner

Jessica Tetreau voted in favor of Saenz's removal,

whereas Galonsky Pizaña, City Commissioner At-

Large "B" Rose Gowen and City Commissioner At-

Mayor Trey Mendez abstained from voting due

The Rider reached out to Mendez on Jan. 5 for

details about who his landlord is and for which

to a conflict of interest, saying that Saenz "is the

class in each. Dominguez said from the options in the development morphology concentration, only two classes were available every semester, which is a disadvantage to students.

"But what happened is, in the last three years, the people who taught all of these other courses in that concentration retired," said Kathryn Perez, associate chair for the Biology Department and associate professor. "And so we were down to just these two [classes]. ... But, essentially, we couldn't offer enough seats in this concentration area to satisfy all of our majors."

Perez clarified that the concentration is now eliminated and that the courses that were available before will be moved to the other concentrations. She said students who started under the older degree plan were notified about the change.

Biology Department Chair and

Professor Robert Dearth said the majority of their students are under the old version. Dearth recommends that students update their degree plan to eliminate confusion.

"My goal is to get students through their degree, but also to facilitate what they want within their degree for their future career," he said.

Dominguez added that the team is planning to meet with the College of Engineering and the College of Computer Science to also talk about course availability on the Brownsville campus. He added that he would like to do the same for environmental and agriculture majors.

When talking about member representation, Dominguez addressed the senator-at-large disbalance from both campuses. There are currently four senators-at-large in Edinburg while there is only one senator-at-large in Brownsville. Dominguez said it is a work in progress and that it requires a lot of advocacy. Senators-at-large work to advocate for changes and the needs for their respective campus as a whole. He explained one of his ideas to reach out to students.

On Campus 3

"One of the things that I want to work on so we can get a number of senators from the Brownsville campus, it's to have some sort of event in which the student government gets to kind of have, like, a field trip day around the school where they can just ... walk to different buildings throughout the campus and be like, 'This is what's happening," Dominguez said.

Jose Herrera, vice president for External Affairs, said the team is going to check with Parking and Transportation Services to talk about the results of the survey that the department sent out late in the fall semester.

He also added to his idea of promoting the VOLT and the possible need to add other types of transportation.

"We need some sort of, you know, intercampus transportation," Herrera said. "Maybe some scooters ... for students who, of course, have to park at a farther parking lot, and they have to pass to the other side of campus."

Vice President for Internal Affairs Kimberly Escalante talked about the incentivization for students in the President's and Dean's lists. Escalante said the team thinks that a ceremony would be a good idea and that this could take some time.

"We thought, like, a really cool idea would be, like, if [President Guy Bailey] could be there in this ceremony," she said.

Herrera and Escalante said that students should not be afraid to apply to the association.

"If you've never been in a student government or student council in high school, you can give it a shot," he said. "A lot of the members that are new, you know, they all know that we're new as well. It's not like we come from experience."

Escalante shared a similar sentiment, saying that the colleges that do not have representation need it, and the students' voices matter.

"We've given them that time," he said. "They have not acted."

BPUB special meeting

After an executive session during Wednesday's PUB special meeting, board members announced their acceptance of Bruciak's retirement.

"At tonight's PUB meeting, the board announced that CEO John Bruciak will be retiring," Mendez wrote in a Facebook post after the meeting. "Additional details will be forthcoming next week. I would like to thank Mr. Bruciak for his 40+ years of service to our public utility."

City of Brownsville Charter Review Committee The charter review committee, which also met Wednesday to hear public comments and discuss

District 4 City Commissioner Pedro Cardenas was not present in person or online, and did not participate in the vote. Mendez spoke about flaws in the charter that hinder the commission's ability to remove members of the utilities board, such as the requirement for a unanimous vote. The City Charter provides no exception to this rule even in the case that a member must abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest or if a member of the commission is absent during the vote, he said. "Commissioner Cardenas is absent," Mendez said. "Based on the way that the charter reads and the way that it requires for any member to be removed, it would fail because it requires the unanimous vote of the commission. "So, I think, that exposes a flaw which we've asked our charter review committee to look at. ... For me, the current charter, the way it reads is not working and today is a prime example of that. Even if you have one commissioner absent, the vote fails." De los Santos said the commission does have the obligation to give BPUB time to act.

proposed amendments, has four meetings left to complete its work.

Proposed amendments to the charter include removing the requirement for a unanimous vote regarding BPUB member removals. Instead, removal, with or without cause, would require a supermajority vote of the entire commission and there would be no annual limits.

Another proposed amendment would require general meetings between the city and BPUB.

A final presentation before the commission is scheduled for today, but three meetings will follow to allow the proposals to be voted on.

During Wednesday's meeting, members of the public will be able to comment on each item discussed.



4 Opinion

January 17, 2023 THE RIDER



Walking into a new year



<u>Salazar</u> photographer

As we begin a new year, many of us jump into writing our New Year's resolutions,

hoping we can complete them throughout the year and not stop in February, like years before.

It is time to go the extra mile to make the best of this year, but for us to make the

most of this year, we need to make some changes, because if we walk with the same habits, this new year will be the same as the last one.

I used to think I could set goals for the new year with the same habits and mentality. But instead of achieving my goals, I would see them fade away. Frustration and anxiety would set in when thinking about what step to take next. I remember at times feeling a void inside me, feeling empty and without hope. Instead of being happy with where I was, all I could think of was where I was hoping to be.

Last year, I wanted to break the cycle and decided to make changes in my life, and my year was full of joy and hope.

Of course, there were some bumps, but someone made me feel at peace in the middle of the storm, and that was God.

Last year, I decided to make things different, and instead of doing everything on my own, I gave it all to Him, and let me tell you, everything was different.

> Last year, I decided to make things different, and instead of doing everything on my own, I gave it all to Him, and let me tell you, everything was different. I was not scared of the future.

> I felt safe knowing there was someone who gave everything for me, a God who loved me and had called to me, even

before I was born.

For me, 2022 was a year of perseverance, with many laughs, leaps of faith and growth. I trusted God in every step.

I saw how God walked beside me and opened doors I would have never thought of; I saw how He transformed me and shaped me into who I am today.

Throughout the 12 months, God pushed me to trust Him more than ever and take leaps of faith, even when I didn't fully comprehend. Following Him was (and is) the best decision ever!

My advice for you this

year is to make changes and d e c i s i o n s . Choose to let God guide you in every step, to let Him fill you with that love that only He can give, and to walk

by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Don't be scared to make changes and follow your gut. Step out of your comfort zone and follow your dreams.

Lastly, I hope this year may be full of true happiness and many open doors for you. Enjoy every second, and be you. Happy New Year!



What are some New Year's resolutions you're planning to keep this year?



Kaycee Villarreal marketing junior

"One of my New Year's resolutions that I'm planning to keep this year is setting savings goals and just practicing, like, better financial health. So, just trying to save money and stuff like that."

"Some New Year's resolutions I'm planning to keep this year, it is my last semester, so I'm trying to graduate. I also wanna keep my grade. I wanna get above a 3.0 and tackle my health, go to the gym more often and just become a better version of me than last year."



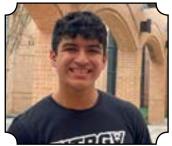
Carlos Davila accounting senior



Nicole Jimenez electrical engineering senior

"One of my resolutions to keep would be to be creative, more creative, definitely."

"Algunas de las resoluciones de este año que planeó en cumplir es ir al gimnasio todos los días, hacer mejor en mis materias de estudios en el colegio de UTRGV y, pues, hacer mejor que el año pasado".



Juan Cruz estudiante de tercer año de kinesiología

--Compiled and photos by Aurora Acevedo

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WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER MAKE A RESOLUTION TO GIVE UP JUNK FOOD OR TO ONLY DRINK WATER FOR THE NEW YEAR?





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.

17 de enero de 2023 THE RIDER

Noticias en Español 5

El costo del sueño americano

Aumentos propuestos en la tarifa de presentación



Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de EE. UU. han propuesto un Aviso de Propuesta de Reglamentación que aumentaría drásticamente la mayoría de las tarifas de presentación de solicitudes de inmigración.

El incremento de tarifa propuesto aumentaría el costo de solicitud para muchos beneficios de inmigración basados en la familia y el empleo.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional también ha propuesto financiar el programa de asilo con una controvertida nueva tarifa del Programa de Asilo de \$600.

El estatus de refugiado o asilo puede otorgarse a personas que han sido perseguidas o temen ser perseguidas por motivos de raza, religión, nacionalidad y/o pertenencia a un grupo social en particular o opinión política, según el sitio web de *USCIS* (por sus siglas en inglés).

La tarifa la pagarían los empleadores que presenten una Petición de Trabajador No Inmigrante (Formulario I-129) o una Petición de Trabajador Extranjero (Formulario I-140).

La tarifa de \$600 sería adicional a las tarifas de procesamiento de esas peticiones.

"La tarifa del Programa de Asilo es una forma efectiva de transferir algunos costos a las solicitudes que normalmente presentan los peticionarios que tienen más capacidad de pago, en lugar de pasar esos costos a todos los demás pagadores", según la regla propuesta. El director de USCIS, Ur M. Jaddou, declaró en un comunicado de prensa el 3 de enero, "Esta regla propuesta USCIS permite que recupere completamente los costos operativos por primera vez en seis años y apoyará el esfuerzo de la Administración para reconstruir el sistema de inmigración legal". USCIS aumentó sus tarifas por última vez en diciembre de 2016, con un aumento promedio del 21%. La propuesta reciente representaría un aumento promedio del 40%. Propuesto el 4 de enero, los aumentos de tarifas permitirían a USCIS a contratar a 7,778 nuevos empleados "para satisfacer las demandas de servicio", según la agencia. La solicitud de una tarjeta de Residente Permanente, o tarjeta verde (green card), para miembros de la familia aumentará según la nueva

propuesta de tarifas de presentación de *USCIS*. Los costos de presentación del Formulario I-129F (Petición de Prometido Extranjero) aumentarían un 35% a \$720.

El costo de presentar el Formulario I-130 (Petición de Familiar Extranjero), que ayuda a los miembros de la familia a obtener una tarjeta verde, también aumentarían un 53% a \$820.

"Sabes, si [las personas] realmente quieren convertirse en ciudadanos estadounidenses, creo que estas diferencias porcentuales no son suficientes para disuadir a las personas. ... Pero creo que los efectos probablemente serán algo mínimos".

-- Álvaro J. Corral, Profesor Asistente en el Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de UTRGV

Otros aumentos de tarifas notables son

--La Solicitud de Designación de Centro Regional (Formulario I-956) aumentará un 168%, de \$17,795 a \$47,695;

--La Petición de Inmigrante por Inversionista Independiente (Formulario I-526) aumentará 204%, de \$3,675 a \$11,160;

--Solicitud de Permiso para Volver a Solicitar la Admisión a los EE. UU. Después de la Deportación o Expulsión (Formulario I-212) aumentará un 50%, de \$930 a \$1,395;

--La Tarifa de Preinscripción H-1B aumentará un 2,050% de \$10 a \$215; y --La Petición de un Inversionista para Eliminar las Condiciones del Estatus de Residente Permanente (Formulario I-829) aumentará un 154% de \$3,750 a \$9,525. Isabel Morales/FOTO RIDER Dijo que los aumentos de tarifas propuestos afectarán a los empleadores que patrocinan a extranieros y

que patrocinan a extranjeros y personas que buscan la naturalización. *USCIS* estima recibir \$5.2 mil

millones adicionales anualmente en fondos para el Año Fiscal 2022-23 si se aprueba la regla propuesta. *USCIS* declaró que gastaría más en sus programas de asilo y refugiados, contrataría a más personas, cubriría mayores costos de contrato, mantendría y actualizaría su tecnología y

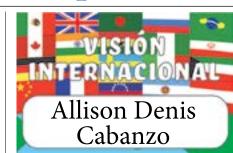
mejoraría el servicio al cliente con los fondos adicionales.

S "Los años fiscales van desde el 1 de octubre [hasta] el 30 de septiembre", dijo Corral en un correo electrónico a *The Rider* el jueves pasado. "Eso significa que todavía estamos actualmente en el [Año Fiscal] 2022-23. Para cuando lleguemos al final del año fiscal, USCIS estima que ganará alrededor de [\$]6.4 mil millones en años fiscales promedio después de que se implemente la regla".

En la propuesta, la agencia afirma que "no puede mantener niveles de servicio adecuados con los efectos de los recortes presupuestarios y su nivel actual de gasto sin impactos duraderos en las operaciones".

Corral dijo que no cree que la cantidad de solicitudes disminuya si se aprueba la propuesta.

"Una de las solicitudes más comunes que la gente pone es esa forma de naturalización y esa fue de hecho la que menos aumentó", "Sabes, si [las personas] dijo. realmente quieren convertirse en ciudadanos estadounidenses, creo que estas diferencias porcentuales no son suficientes para disuadir a las personas. ... Pero creo que los efectos probablemente serán algo mínimos". Sarah Badillo, estudiante de tercer año de biología, dijo que no está de acuerdo con la propuesta de aumentar ciertas tarifas de inmigración y naturalización. "Probablemente disminuya, solo porque siento que ya están luchando lo suficiente para llegar a donde están y tener que pagar aún más, eso probablemente los sorprenderá", dijo Badillo sobre los inmigrantes. "Siento que, en todo caso, la gente intentará colarse aún más en lugar de seguir esa ruta". Después de que finalice un período de comentarios públicos de 60 días el 6 de marzo, se revisarán todos los comentarios y DHS (por sus siglas en inglés) publicará una decisión final, según Corral.



Nombre: Allison Denis Cabanzo Carrera: Negocios internacionales Clasificación: Estudiante de último año

Fecha de graduación: Primavera 2023



Fatima Gamez Lopez / Foto rider

Ciudad natal: Bogotá, Colombia

Actividades extracurriculares: "En el momento, no, pero me gusta hacer deportes. Me gusta jugar *basketball* o *soccer*".

Pasatiempos: "Me gusta leer [y] tejo".

¿Cuáles son tus metas? "Mis metas son empezar mi propia empresa de negocios internacionales ... que pueda ser una empresa que se vea en otros lados del mundo. ... También quiero expandir la empresa de mis papás a los Estados Unidos. ... Ellos tienen una empresa de decoraciones para fiestas. Todo lo relacionado con vasos, platos, hacen los anuncios que dicen 'Happy Birthday'. Hacen rosetones [de papel], hacen todo [tipo] de decoraciones".

¿Quién es tu modelo a seguir? "Principalmente es Dios y mis papás. Ellos son mi modelo a seguir en cuanto a que ellos salieron adelante, empezaron desde cero en la vida y han podido lograr muchas cosas".

¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás? "Me gusta mucho todo lo que tiene relacionado con negocios, cómo interactuar con gente [y] vender. Así empecé desde chiquita, vendía muchas cosas yo solita y luego fue cuando empecé a crecer que quería crear [mi] propia empresa que se expandiera a lo largo del mundo".

¿Cuál sería tu trabajo ideal? "Me gustaría mucho viajar mientras trabajó, como ir a este país y luego ir a este otro [país] y solo hablar de lo que yo hago, de mis productos y de mi empresa".

¿Cuál ha sido tu momento de mayor orgullo? "He tenido muchos logros durante mi vida pero yo creo que ... mis estudios y las becas que he logrado. Me siento orgullosa de decir que [estoy] en los Estados Unidos y he

La regla propuesta alienta las presentaciones en línea al reducir la tarifa de presentación de \$10 a \$100 para algunos solicitantes en línea.

Álvaro J. Corral, profesor asistente en el Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de UTRGV, dijo que es importante que la gente sepa que *USCIS* no está totalmente financiado por el Congreso.

"USCIS es un poco diferente de muchas otras agencias del gobierno federal", dijo Corral. *"Entonces, el 96% de sus costos operativos provienen de las tarifas del público estadounidense, o de las personas que buscan sus servicios. Aunque son una agencia del gobierno federal, en realidad no están totalmente financiadas por el Congreso".*

logrado mis estudios sola".

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales? "Yo les diría que no tengan miedo a tomar alguna decisión que pueda cambiar la vida de ellos por completo, si no que más bien tomen el riesgo de seguir lo que les gusta y sus sueños".

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

For an English version of this story, visit utrgvrider.com

6 Politics

The cost of the American dream

Filing fee increases proposed

Fatima Gamez Lopez SPANISH EDITOR

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would dramatically raise most immigration filing fees has been proposed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The proposed fee increase would raise the application cost for many familyand employment-based immigration benefits.

The Department of Homeland Security has also proposed funding the asylum program with a controversial new \$600 Asylum Program fee.

Refugee status or asylum may be granted to people who have been persecuted or fear they will be persecuted on account of race, religion, nationality and/or membership in a particular social group or political opinion, according to the USCIS website.

The fee would be paid by employers who file a Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129) or an Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140).

The \$600 fee would be in addition to the processing fees for those petitions.

"The Asylum Program fee is an effective way of shifting some costs to applications that are typically filed by petitioners who are more able to pay, rather than pass those costs on to all other payers," according to the proposed rule.

USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou stated in a Jan. 3 news release, "This proposed rule allows USCIS to more fully recover operating costs for the first time in six years and will support the Administration's effort to rebuild the legal immigration system."

The USCIS last increased its fees in December 2016, with an average increase of 21%. The recent proposal would represent an average increase of 40%.

Proposed on Jan. 4, the fee increases would allow USCIS to hire 7,778 new employees "in order to meet demands for service," according to the agency.

Applying for a Permanent Resident card, or green card, for family members will increase under the USCIS's new filing fees proposal. Form I-129F (Petition for Alien Fiancé) filing costs would increase 35% to \$720.

The cost to submit Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative), which helps family members in getting a green card, would also go up 53% to \$820.



Other notable fee increases are

--Application for Regional Center Designation (Form I-956) will increase 168%, from \$17,795 to \$47,695; --Immigrant Petition by Standalone Investor (Form I-526) will increase 204%, from \$3,675 to \$11,160;

--Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the U.S. After Deportation or Removal (Form I-212) will increase 50%, from \$930 to \$1,395;

--H-1B Pre-Registration Fee

will increase 2,050% from \$10 to \$215; and

--Petition by Investor to Remove Conditions on Permanent Resident Status (Form I-829) will increase 154% from \$3,750 to \$9,525.

The proposed rule encourages online filings by reducing the filing fee by \$10 to \$100 for some online applicants.

Álvaro J. Corral, an assistant professor in the UTRGV Department of Political Science, said it is important for the people to know that USCIS is not fully funded by Congress.

"USCIS is a little bit different from a lot of other federal government agencies," Corral said. "So 96% of their operating costs come from fees from the American public, right, or from people who are seeking their services. Even though they are a federal government agency, they are not actually funded fully by Congress."

He said the proposed fee increases will affect employers

Ask the Expert: First in a Series House Speaker and party politics

118th Congress Begins



On Jan. 7, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Califronia)

Freedom Caucus Faction, wanted more committee chairships. Since the speaker has a lot of power over the selection of chairships, they tried putting pressure on McCarthy.

However, this term may see a weaker speaker, overall.

"The structure of the House of Representatives is a lot of push and pull," Olney said. "At the start of every term, every two years, they rewrite the [house] rules. That's the first thing they did after they finally elected McCarthy as speaker."

Because of this, the committee members are going to have much more authority and independence over how they operate.

The root cause of McCarthy's lack of influence is due to the disunity within the Republican Party as well as its small majority, according to Olney. As a result, there will likely be less legislation and more antagonism toward the Biden administration within the House. "Raising taxes and then increasing spending is going to be more difficult for the House to do, and that's done on purpose," Corral said. "... Congress has the power of oversight and investigation, and so House Republicans will likely lead a couple of investigations into this Democratic president." Olney said he anticipates a tumultuous and chaotic next two years. "I don't anticipate that political scientists will regard McCarthy as having been a very successful speaker, but you never know," he said. Asked for her reaction to the situation, English major Jessica Wilson replied, "I feel that already the House of Representatives has been in quite a strange place, especially since Biden has been elected. I think there's more divide than ever between Democrats and Republicans. ... It's ultimately going to set the entire country back."



PHOTO BY IKE HAYMAN

Landon Burns

THE RIDER

On Jan. 7, U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-California) was elected to the position of House Speaker in Congress. This election was unusual due to the number of ballots held before somebody was finally elected.

"It's not normal to go to the floor with a vote if you don't already know you're going to win, and he did," said Charles Olney, an associate professor in the Political Science Department. Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Somebody had to be elected House Speaker, and since there was little competition, McCarthy called for multiple votes until he was elected after the 15th ballot.

"There was a very stubborn minority of about 20 Republicans who refused to vote for him until they got a certain number of concessions," said Alvaro Corral, an assistant professor in the Political Science Department.

A group in the Republican Party, called the

On Campus 7

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Documenting his story Local Vietnam veteran shares his experience through published book

Omar E. Zapata A&E REPORTER

For over a decade, 73-year-old Vietnam veteran René Lizcano has contemplated whether to tell his story of the war in a book until he finally pieced together his memories to write "One Life to Live or Give: From the Rio Grande Valley to the Ia Drang Valley and Back."

Lizcano, a retired police officer and legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American alumnus, told The Rider it took him about three years to complete the book using pictures, letters and memories from his deployment in Vietnam.

Published on Dec. 13, 2022, the book is available to purchase through Amazon.

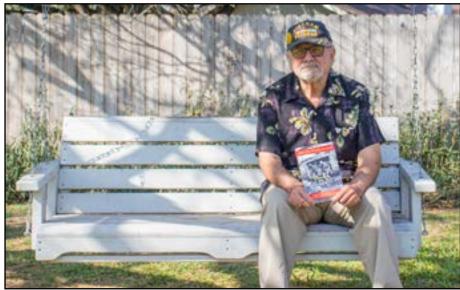
"I didn't want to check out before leaving something behind that documented my experience ... and I had the pictures there and some of my letters that I would send to my wife, who was my sweetheart," Lizcano said. "So, I said, 'Let's put it into a book form.""

At 130 pages, the book is a true story spanning from Lizcano's time attending Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School in the late 1960s to his time spent deployed in Vietnam during the early 1970s, where he quickly learned how dangerous war is.

The book also includes photos of Lizcano during the times mentioned.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, he was trained as a supply clerk in charge of handling supplies that the soldiers needed. Things quickly changed when Lizcano was sprung into combat action as a helicopter door gunner, which involved daily combat missions with a risk of death above and in the jungles of Vietnam.

"Every day that you go out on a combat operation, you never know if you were gonna come back," he said. "So, every day was a bonus if you made it towards the end of the day. ... And we flew combat missions every day,



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Local author and Vietnam veteran René Lizcano sits on a bench he built for his grandchildren as he holds his book, "One Life to Live or Give: From the Rio Grande Valley to the la Drang Valley and Back," last Tuesday outside his home in Mission.

inserting fourth infantry troops into the jungle."

Lizcano said having common sense and fear was what helped him survive the daily combat missions in the jungle, where his duties were to clear a landing for the helicopter and watch for enemy troops.

"There are some areas there that I did not include that are violent," he said. "War is hell, as they say, and I did not want to embellish that and make it into something big. ... We lost friends, and you see the dedication in memory of my friends that were killed. But I would want for [the readers] to just understand what a Vietnam veteran went through. The good parts, the funny parts, the scary parts."



Danielle Perez

Aries-Manifesting a quick outcome will always give you the short end of the stick. Learn to have patience and put effort in the areas you want to succeed. Frustration may start to arise, but don't take it as a sign of weakness. Instead, use it as strength and test yourself to see how much you want it.

Leo-Instead of waiting around for the news you've been anticipating, take action by investing time in something meaningful. Only then will the universe start revealing its secrets to you. Keep what serves a purpose, release what doesn't and try to rebuild your foundation.

Sagittarius-The hardship you are experiencing is taking up most of your energy, so make it a priority to take care of yourself, too. In the meantime, envision your outcomes so, when the situation comes to an end, you'll find harmony and hope within yourself.

Libra-Reflecting on childhood memories can bring out your inner child, affecting you. This is a good thing from time to time for those who have unhealed childhood trauma. Take these moments to think about what conversations or things you need to heal and receive closure. **Gemini**-After everything life has thrown in your direction, you have not given up. It has not been easy, but you've finally found what works best. Take in this moment of happiness life has brought you and celebrate your success. Accept that you've made it this far instead of dishonoring it.

Aquarius-Taking a leap of faith can be nerve-wracking due to the fear of the unknown. However, sometimes we need to put ourselves out there to experience something new. Don't panic. The universe is on your side and is ready to deliver new opportunities and good fortune once you're there.

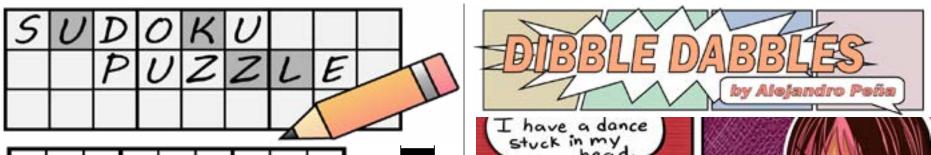
Scorpio-A major change or commitment is in the works behind the scene. For now, trust the process and keep moving forward with your everyday life. When the right time comes, justice will present itself and you'll be in a happier place not having to worry.

Pisces-A chapter in your life has come to an end but do not take it personally. This situation will help you realize important factors in your life. Use your strength to move forward and make better choices for yourself. Avoid letting others have an effect on your well-being. **Cancer**-Conversations need to happen in order to achieve a great outcome. Avoid taking things personally when others share their opinions. Instead, use it to your benefit. In return, express your feelings and try finding a middle ground. This could be the start of something new.

Taurus-Going back and forth about a past experience? Perhaps it's time to put it to rest and take the next step forward. The universe has many good things in store for you but is waiting till you truly let go. Don't let yesterday determine tomorrow.

Virgo-If you haven't noticed yet, people you meet are easily attracted to you. Use this to your advantage by making new friendships or partnerships. Try expanding your circle as you could be more social this semester. Create bonds with others that will assist you in the future.

Capricorn-Take notice of the people who are there for you instead of pushing them away. Sometimes we take others' presence for granted without realizing how much they do for us. Try being there for them as much as they are there for you.



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Happy Solving!





Deborah Ogayemi



Jose Medina/THE RIDER

Kinesiology junior Deborah Ogayemi is a forward for the UTRGV Women's Basketball Team. She is from Waterford, Ireland, and attended Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas.

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

A: "Watch Netflix, TV shows I like shopping, too. The mall, it has a variety of stuff so I like going to different stores, but I don't have a specific store."

Q: Who is one of your role models?

A: "My sister, role model-wise, because of her character [and] the way she carries herself. I try to follow in her footsteps, but at the same time my own footsteps. She has a big impact on my decisions and is one of my biggest supporters, as well as my family."

Q: What motivates you?

A: "My family. They worked so hard to get me to where I am today. So everything I do, I do it for them, but also do it for myself."

Q: What are your career goals?

A: "My goal is to be an athletic trainer and, hopefully, continue basketball in the professional league."

Q: How did you start playing basketball?

A: "I was 13 when I started playing basketball. It took me a while because I was doing multiple sports for a minute. When I started basketball, I liked it more. It came to a point where my parents were like, 'You have to choose one sport. You can't do four at a time.'

Q: What has been your proudest moment?

A: "I would say making it to [the Irish National Team] my third year of learning how to play basketball. So I played at the age of 15 to 16 [Under-16], stopped playing for a year, then I got invited to play back for [Under-18].

Q: What do you like about UTRGV? A: "One of my favorite things about UTRGV is the atmosphere. It's so friendly and like family. Not even just on campus, but even when you go anywhere else. They'll see you wear a UTRGV shirt and they'll ask you questions ... and immediately start a conversation.²

Football on the horizon



PHOTO COURTESY KRISTELLA CRUZ New head coach Travis Bush and the UTRGV Football Founders Society celebrate the closing of membership with 34 members pledging \$1.75 million to the football program during the Dec. 23 news conference at the H-E-B Park.

Jose Medina SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV is in the process of starting a new football program. A majority of students voted in favor of increasing the athletics fee in order to support new programs, such as swimming and diving, marching bands, spirit programs and the new football team.

The football program is backed by an allocation of \$1 million from the UTRGV Foundation. Alongside that is \$1.75 million raised by the Football Founders Society.

The society includes UTRGV President Guy Bailey and his wife Val LaMantia, Vice President and Director of Athletics Chasse Conque and other local supporters. The Football Founders Society is

made up of 34 members. "Those 34 members will live donated \$1.75 million," said Vince Volpe, UTRGV chief financial officer and deputy director of Athletics.

Asked about the society, Conque replied, "It's one of those things that, if we don't believe in what we're doing ourselves, you know, how can we ask others to join us."

He said having support from the leadership at UTRGV sends a strong message to the external community.

"It was there to answer the call of our students," Conque said. "It was there ... for the external community to show our students it won't solely be just our students having to carry this initiative, that the community was going to step up and help as well."

Asked what amenities the money would be used for, Conque replied, "Every time you start a program from scratch, there's quite a few onetime expenses, one-time things like facilities, equipment and practice fields."

there are talks with corporate partners and other community resources that are interested in investing in UTRGV's athletic programs.

Conque said the most exciting part of building the new football program is watching people come together and the sense of community. He said he likes to see the joy from the community in regard to a new program coming to UTRGV.

Volpe said the support for the program shows the Rio Grande Valley is hungry for Division 1 football.

"So I'm just so excited that in two and a half years you'll be able to sit on the stands and cheer on your school, your Division 1 program, on the field."

in perpetuity, having generously Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Director of

"There's not many universities or student bodies that can witness the birth of a football program," Volpe said. "So I'm just so excited for the UTRGV student body and, obviously, the community at large.

"So I'm just so excited that in two and a half years you'll be able to sit on the stands and cheer on your school, your Division 1 program, on the field."

He said he is thankful to the UTRGV community and, especially, the student body for making the football program possible.

Asked how he felt about the football program being built, Volpe replied it is the highlight of his career.

start with an idea on a napkin all the way through to the first football coach," he said. "That's a pride and joy and part of my career I'll never forget."

Sports 9

Volpe said he got to UTRGV in the summer of 2015. He said within a few months, there were talks with Bailey and his cabinet to see if it was the right time for a football program.

"It started in 2016 with conducting a football feasibility study and would it be feasible to do at UTRGV," Volpe said.

He said, ultimately, it was not the right time then.

We had just opened the doors to a new medical school that was a critical piece to our campus," Volpe said.

In November 2021, the student body approved a referendum to increase the athletic fee.

Volpe said that brought the university to officially naming --Vince Volpe Travis Bush as head coach on Dec. 13. It also led to the creation of an approximate timeline for the Athletics football program.

Bush was previously head coach at Seguin High School from 2016 to 2021. He then became head coach at Grand Canyon High School in New Braunfels from 2021 to 2022.

Bush was also the offensive assistant coach for the NFL's Buffalo Bills in 2015.

The new football program will be operational by Fall 2025.

Bush said more people will be hired this semester. He also said they are sorting out the process to be able to recruit athletes this spring.

"Once we get to this time next year, we'll have a full staff in place," Bush said. 'We'll find a class of 2024."

He said they will sign a class and practice, hen sign another class and conduct spring training. After the summer, they will kick off with games in 2025.

--Compiled by Jose Medina

He said this is just the beginning, as

"I came down here eight years ago from the University of Connecticut,' he said. "The reason I came down here was to work on this project."

Volpe said it is a point of pride.

"I've been able to see this process

Bush said there will be news releases soon with more information on the football program and updates regarding conference games.



Vaqueros tame Wildcats



Graduate forward Dima Zdor looks to pass over Wildcat defenders in the open court during last Wednesday's game against Abilene Christian University at the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The Vaqueros defeated the Wildcats 103-83.

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Jose Medina SPORTS REPORTER

10|Sports

The UTRGV Men's Basketball Team received its ninth win last Wednesday by beating Abilene Christian University 103-83, making its new record 1-4 in conference and 9-8 overall.

The Wildcats have a record of 1-3 in conference and 9-8 overall.

Sophomore guard Sherman Brashear set the tone for the rest of the game by scoring the first two points for the Vaqueros.

UTRGV senior forward Justin Johnson scored his 1,000th career point during the game.

The crowd cheered as Johnson's career milestone was announced. He said he was happy to hit 1,000 points.

"I didn't even know I was about to hit it tonight, but I'm just proud of myself and my hard work," Johnson said.

Asked for his thoughts on the win, Johnson replied it was a great team effort and they needed the win.

"Glad we were able to bounce back," he said.

"... It's all about preparing and practicing hard. This game is in the past. Now we just got to look forward."

Johnson put up five rebounds, 25 points and three assists.

UTRGV graduate forward Dima Zdor finished the game with eight rebounds, 24 points and three assists.

Asked about his performance, Zdor replied, "I'll go back to my

team. They put me in a position where I could have those numbers tonight."

He said sophomore guard Will Johnston is a "great point guard."

"Will did a terrific job," Zdor said. "He had 10 assists."

He said it was a good team effort. "It was easy to perform tonight because what our team accomplished as a whole," Zdor said.

Johnston ended the game with three rebounds, 19 points and 10 assists.

Head coach Matt Figger said he was proud across the board.

"I'm very proud of these young men," Figger said. "Everything we do with this team is a first time experience."

He said they needed a win and

O)

could not walk away without one.

"We needed to get the monkey off our backs and believe in ourselves," Figger said. "We still won by 17 but we made it a little scarier than it should've been."

Asked what he thought about the team's offense, he replied it was the best they have played all year in terms of moving the ball around.

"You know, turnovers, but that's Abilene's deal," Figger said. "They don't quit. That's what they thrive on, turning the ball over."

Wildcat senior guard Immanuel Allen led his team with four rebounds, 26 points and two assists. He was followed by graduate guard Tobias Cameron, who had five rebounds, 12 points and five assists.

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January 17, 2023 THE RIDER

his extensive cheer background, Mata has also joined in helping Gomez with overseeing the cheerleaders.

"Gomez has a very strong dance background," Mata said. "So my cheerleading background, I'm able to kind of help oversee the cheerleaders and kind of help them grow. I'm here to help out, you know, filling the hole so to speak.'

Senior veteran cheer member Alexandra Hinojosa said Mata, who cheered in college, is a good addition to the team.

"We've been trying a lot of new stuff, like new ways of practicing," Hinojosa said. "Our practices are built a little bit different now. [The coaches] are pretty good and I think they're just going to get better as we go. It's really nice having them both.^{*}

The first plan of action for Gomez and Mata is to tackle the expansion and growth of the program, including the dance and cheer teams, but also

taking the dance team to competitions, which has never been done at UTRGV.

The cheerleaders have a very good reputation of being a competitive squad and the dancers have had the reputation of just being a school dance team," Mata said. "So we're trying to equal them out and make them both competitive.'

Guerra said she has been waiting to compete since her freshman year.

"It's very rewarding how far this program has come," she said. "I'm just glad that we have a support system where we are on the same page to what we want this program to become, [wanting] both cheer and dance to be competing nationally."

The new coaches have almost doubled the number of members on the dance team, meeting their goal of having at least 20 dancers.

"As soon as I came on board, I waited for Rudy ... and then we started planning for tryouts for the dance Gomez said. "So, we went team," from 11 [dance] members to now 21 members.

Tryouts for next year will likely be

be eligible for tryout, candidates must have attended at least one of the two

held in April, according to Mata. To

be judged on jumps, cheer, fight song, tumbling and stunting.

who sponsor aliens and individuals seeking naturalization.

USCIS estimates receiving an extra \$5.2 billion annually in funding for Fiscal Year 2022-23 if the proposed rule is approved. USCIS stated that it would spend more on its asylum and refugee programs, hire more people, cover increased contract costs, maintain and update its technology, and improve customer service with the additional funds.

"Fiscal years run from Oct. 1 [through] Sept. 30," Corral said in an email to The Rider last Thursday. "So that means we are still presently in FY 2022-23.

Throughout the book, Lizcano brings

up many situations where he was not

informed of certain life and death

From being assigned guard duty

with no prior experience and passing

through the Mang Yang Pass, a deadly

part of a highway between two camps

with no knowledge of it to doing on-

the-job training as a helicopter door

gunner, despite never handling an

the Army way," he said. "So, we had to learn by mistakes. And that's why

young guys got killed. Because they

"There's a right way and then there's

M60 machine gun prior to that.

details or instructed properly.

By the time we reach the end of fiscal year, USCIS estimates that it will make about [\$]6.4 billion in average fiscal years after the rule is implemented."

In the proposal, the agency states it "cannot maintain adequate service levels with the effects of the budget cuts and its current level of spending without lasting impacts on operations."

Corral said he does not think the number of applications will decrease if the proposal is approved.

'One of the most common applications that people put in is that naturalization form and that was actually the one that increased the least," he said. "You know, if [people] really want to become U.S. citizens, I think these percentage differences aren't enough to really dissuade people. ... But I think the effects will probably be somewhat minimal."

Biology junior Sarah Badillo said she does not agree with the proposal to increase certain immigration and naturalization fees.

"Probably decrease, just because I feel like they are already struggling enough to get where they are and to have to pay even more, that's probably going to be a shock to them," Badillo said about immigrants. "I feel like, if anything, people are going to try to sneak in even more instead of going that route."

After a 60-day public comment period ends on March 6, all comments will be reviewed and DHS will publish a final decision, according to Corral.

didn't know exactly, in a war like that, how to react, and many guys lost their lives.

With many Vietnam veterans suffering physically and mentally after the war, Lizcano encouraged other veterans to get help in forms of counseling and not to go the route of drug and alcohol abuse.

"I did six months at a veterans hospital in Waco, which is [a] veterans hospital for combat veterans, about 10 to 12 years ago," he said. "And there were a lot of veterans my age back then, having fought in the Vietnam War. ... Don't go that route [of drug and alcohol abuse]. I did go that route for a while and almost lost my family and my marriage."

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Local author and Vietnam veteran René Lizcano reminisces through his Vietnam memorabilia last Tuesday in his home in Mission.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Also shown is Spirit Program Coordinator Rudy Mata. open practices held. Candidates will

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER The UTRGV Coed Cheer Team practices last Tuesday in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.







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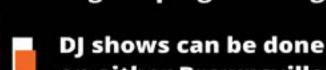
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