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A&E

A 'lost art' resurging

SPORTS

Swinging into a new season

Lawmakers convene in Austin for Texas legislative session

Brigitte Ortiz
 THE RIDER

Last Wednesday, members of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate filed preliminary budgets that propose the use of about \$130 billion in discretionary state revenue on services over the next two years.

On Jan. 10, the 88th Texas legislative session commenced in Austin with a record-breaking surplus projected at \$32 billion in the state treasury when the current biennium ends in September, according to the State Comptroller.

Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1 include a write-off of \$70,000 for homeowners in taxable

value on their homes and \$12 billion to be set aside for the purpose of reducing property

To watch the 88th legislative session, visit house.texas.gov/video-audio/

taxes through additional legislation, according to the Texas Senate website.

"I have never been more excited

about the beginning of a session than I am this year and there's several reasons for that," Gov. Greg Abbott told the lawmakers during the session, which was livestreamed. "We are blessed with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put our state on a course of unassailable excellence for generations to come. Why we are situated that way is because

of the \$32.7 billion surplus that we have. That budget surplus is because of taxpayers in the state of Texas."

Higher education institutions may see additional funding at the end of the 88th Texas Legislature after the House and Senate proposals that include \$2.5 billion toward a new

The road to change

City commission hears proposed charter edits; BPUB provides fund breakdown and timeline



Verilu Infante/THE RIDER

Brownsville City Commissioner At-Large "A" John Cowen Jr. fills in for Mayor Trey Mendez as mayor pro tem during last Tuesday's meeting. The commission listened to the Charter Review Committee interim report and a presentation from the Brownsville Public Utilities Board regarding funds raised for the Tenaska Project. Visit utrgvrider.com to read the full story.

Representation matters

Fatima Gamez Lopez
 SPANISH EDITOR

Starting the year leading UTRGV to nationals, mass communication senior Carlos Luna was named as one of 50 Most Promising Multicultural Students for 2023 for the American Advertising Federation's.

The Most Promising program gives advertising, media, communications and tech companies the opportunity to tap into high-achieving talent of 50 diverse college students from across the country, according to a Jan. 10 AAF news release.

Students from more than 140 college chapters applied to the program. This year's class had an average GPA of 3.7 and represented 28 schools and 18 states across the country, including California, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, New York and Texas.

Luna said he found out about the program by taking advantage of every opportunity that came his way.

"So, when the multicultural thing ... came up, I just wanted to throw my hat in the ring, see if I could be part of it and I was accepted," Luna said. "It was very humbling and [I] had a little bit of impostor syndrome. But, I mean, here

Returning to the Final Four

Teresita Dominguez
 THE RIDER

The Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship took place Jan. 5-8 in Seattle, Washington, where UTRGV's Chess Team A placed third and Team B placed fourth.

The tournament, made up of 85 different teams, each representing 44 different colleges in total, according to UTRGV Chess Coach Bartek Maciejka, was one of the biggest and most prestigious tournaments of the entire

semester. With only the top four placing teams qualifying to advance to the next competition, the main goal of the team was to finish among the top four and advance to the Final Four College Chess Championship later this semester.

With UTRGV being the only college this year to have two teams place in the top four, only one of its teams can attend, making Team A the qualifying team to represent the university.

With Webster University placing first, the University

of Missouri placing second and UTRGV placing third and fourth, Saint Louis University, which finished fifth, qualified as the fourth team for the tournament.

Having participated in the Final Four a total of four times, winning three and placing second in the other, UTRGV has always been considered the underdog, Maciejka said.

"The first time we won, other coaches, other people, everybody was just shocked," he said. "[Saying] 'How did they win?' They thought, 'Well,

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

UTRGV's Chess Team members and International Masters Juraj Druska (left) and Ekin Ozenir practice Jan. 13 in the Chess Program Office on the Brownsville campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monday Resource Fair

The Center for Student Involvement

will host a fair for student organizations to provide information from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in University Center Room 205 on the Edinburg campus and from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

Tuesday Block Party

UTRGV will host a **Block Party** to welcome students, staff and faculty from noon to 3 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. There will be **music, entertainment and games.**

Wednesday Graphic Thoughts

The **University Library** will host a discussion about the Isekai genre of anime and manga from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Thursday Advisor Basics

The **Center for Student Involvement** will host an information session for advisers, faculty and staff from noon to 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.418 on the Edinburg campus. There will be **free food.**

Rec Fest

University Recreation will host a festival from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College

Recreation Center in Brownsville. There will be **activities, food and music.**

New Year's Day Celebration

The **Campus Activities Board** will have a New Year's Day Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Student Union PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. There will be **free food, music, DIY T-shirts and more.**

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 17 and 18.



Jan. 17

12:10 p.m.:

An employee reported that two men entered a Mathematics & Science Academy classroom in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus and offered students what they said were alcoholic beverages and left the area after they were asked to leave. Officers located the men matching the description on campus. After further investigation, it was determined that the drinks were non-alcoholic

beverages. Both subjects were issued criminal trespass warnings for all UTRGV properties and left the area without further incident.

3:19 p.m.: A staff member reported graffiti on eight distribution boxes of The Rider newspaper on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

9 p.m.: A student reported losing an item of sentimental value in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus.

Jan. 18

12:36 p.m.: An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle displaying expired registration in Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus. An investigation

revealed the non-affiliated driver had two active traffic warrants for his arrest out of the Edinburg Municipal Court. The man was arrested and booked into the Edinburg Municipal Jail on the outstanding warrants.

12:56 p.m.: A non-affiliated third party relayed information that a minor collision between a school bus and a passenger vehicle occurred about 9:15 a.m. in the circle drive in front of the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. Limited information was provided, and contact was not made with the involved parties.

3:44 p.m.: A male student athlete

reported experiencing severe cramps in his legs and abdomen after his tennis match on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the student to the hospital for medical treatment. A UTRGV athletic trainer accompanied the student to the hospital.

11:19 p.m.: A resident assistant reported an odor of marijuana in the second floor hallway of the Unity Hall men's wing on the Edinburg campus. The officer checked the area but was unable to determine where the odor of marijuana was coming from.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

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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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Edinburg City Council

Reviews future sewer improvements



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Director of Utilities Gerardo Carmona presents and discusses the Owassa Road sanitary sewer improvements during the Edinburg City Council meeting last Tuesday. Carmona said there are certain areas that do not currently have sewers, including areas from Jackson Road to U.S. Highway 281, and from there to Veterans Road.

Andrea Flores REPORTER

During last Tuesday's Edinburg City Council meeting, Director of Utilities Gerardo Carmona and Assistant City Manager Tom Reyna presented details on the Owassa Road Sanitary Sewer Improvements.

The agenda packet states that about 102 properties totaling 325 acres along

east and west Owassa Road were annexed in 2013 and 2015, respectively, and need sanitary sewer services. The improvements will be made from Jackson Road to U.S. Highway 281 and from that point to Veterans Boulevard.

For the west side of the road, the budget is \$1.4 million, while the fund for the east side is \$600,000.

During the meeting, Carmona said that the east

side will not need a lift station.

"Since we have some manholes that are deep enough, we'll be able to run it by gravity," he said.

Later on, Carmona explained the east side of the project will require easements to run the sewer lines.

He added that the sewer system will function by gravity on the west side but since the existing manholes are not deep enough in the area, a lift

station will be needed.

Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr. asked for the estimated timeline for the project, to which Carmona replied the engineering would take from five to six months and the construction would take a year to finish.

The project will be completed in phases and consists of agricultural, business and residential areas.

Reyna explained the project will have to be completed in phases due to the estimated cost of the project.

"A big portion of that will be the land acquisition that Mr. Carmona stated," he said.

Reyna also reminded the council that the city does not own any right-of-way on Owassa Road and that it belongs to the City of Pharr. Edinburg officials are currently working with Pharr officials for an interlocal agreement to assist Edinburg with the sewer lines.

"Obviously, we want to target, you know, the residential areas and the business areas," Edinburg City Manager Myra Ayala said. "The area in its entirety is a priority for us."

Ayala clarified that some of the monies come from bond funding and capital improvement projects. Reyna said the project was budgeted from 2019 utility bonds, which was already set in place for improvement projects.

Residents would have to

pay to connect to the sewer system and the city will provide an option to connect within three years, according to Reyna.

"The reason why we do the direct connect during that time is we don't know the current infrastructure of the home," he said. "That's why they would have to have a license to do that connection."

In other business, the council approved a resolution that will result in intersection improvements to Freddy Gonzalez Drive and Closner Boulevard. The city will submit a preliminary application for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program from the Texas Department of Transportation.

The city proposed to upgrade all intersection streetlights and to add a fourth eastbound lane. This will result in improved pedestrian traffic, according to the agenda packet.

Other changes include modification to the ground boxes, power holes, inlets and sidewalks.

The project cost is an estimated \$478,000 and the agenda packet states that the city qualifies for 100% of the total project funding. Intersection improvements begin after October 2023 if the grant is awarded, and the project is anticipated to be completed in a year.

LEGISLATIVE

Continued from Page 1

endowment to support public universities. This proposal will affect universities that do not receive money from the Permanent University Fund.

On the first day of the regular session, state Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) was elected Speaker of the House by a vote of 143 to 3.

"Members, though we face many challenges this session, there will be even more opportunities," Phelan said during the Jan. 11 session. "The work is hard but it is worthwhile. The work is demanding but it is noble. The work is necessary. And because we have the privilege of doing it for the people of Texas, I know we will get it done together."

On the following day, members adopted house rules for the 88th legislative session.

Although most rules were unchanged from last session, the most important rule change came in response to over 50 Democratic members fleeing the Capitol to block the passage of legislation during the last session.

To form a quorum, at least two-thirds of elected members must be present to conduct business, according to the Texas Constitution.

During the Jan. 11 session, State Rep. Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) said if a member is absent without leave for the purpose of impeding the action of the House, the member is subject to a \$500 fine for each calendar day of absence, payment of costs incurred by the sergeant-at-arms, reprimand proceeding, censure proceeding and/or expulsion.

"The intent of the rule is for somebody who actually intentionally tries to impede action of the state's business," Hunter said. "I would hope that the members, all 150, would work together to realize if there was an intentional act. Or [if] somebody was ill, that's not what this is talking about."

The amendment passed with 87 yeas and 59 nays.

The House adjourned last Wednesday and will convene Tuesday and meet Wednesday. To watch the 88th legislative session, visit Texas House of Representatives ; Chamber Video Archives.

88TH LEGISLATURE

The legislative session commenced with a record-breaking surplus projected at **\$32 billion** in the state treasury when the current biennium ends in September.

The Texas House of Representatives is holding sessions from **Jan. 10 through May 29** at the state Capitol, which will be free to watch on the official website.

To watch the 88th legislative session, visit <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/chamber/88/>.

Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC



Visit us online at
utrgvrider.com



Absurd to you, happiness to me



Jesse Valencia

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT

Nearly two years ago, like any other 18-year-old, I contemplated getting a tattoo. This was not an impulsive act of rebelliousness, but something I had given a lot of thought to for many years before and knew I wanted.

I spent several days thinking it through and evaluating the pros and cons, then one day I just woke up and went to a tattoo shop without hesitation.

Arriving there, I wasn't intimidated or having second thoughts because somewhere deep down I knew this was something I wanted.

The artist scheduled me the same day I went and I got two tattoos during the session.

Getting and having something new in my life gave me confidence and excitement like I have never felt.

It was one of the first things I did by myself, for myself, without the intervention of other people. It felt unreal,

almost like a dream.

I enjoy getting tattoos: the planning, anticipation, the actual tattooing process and the finished product.

I ended up getting three more in a span of one to two months, one of which, if I'm being honest, was impulsive, which I don't encourage.

I heard a phrase saying tattoos are a permanent accessory that are always on display, even if they are for yourself, which they should be.

The main message is that whatever makes you happy, whatever your interests, likes or goals are, shouldn't have to make sense to other people.

One of the biggest factors when it comes to tattoos is the reaction of others. It's unavoidable.

The responses I received from friends, family members and my father were positive and completely understanding in wanting to do something for yourself and it doesn't change who you are as a person.

My mother, despite having one herself, was not as understanding, and basically told me the stereotypical things you hear that people say to try and convince you otherwise, such as you will not look nice or you won't be able to get a job, etc.

Though I understood her being upset, as I didn't mention it before and withheld the information, it can be discouraging when something that makes you happy is made out to be a terrible thing, mainly by someone you want to understand, but over time she has accepted that they don't define who you are.

The stigma with tattoos is that it makes you a bad person. People will look at you differently and it can affect your future opportunities and other prospects.

Over time, I found that to be false.

It may be because tattoos are more accepted now, but I have not experienced being treated any differently. I was seen not for what I have on my body, but as a person.

This is not a story encouraging the reader to get a tattoo by any means.

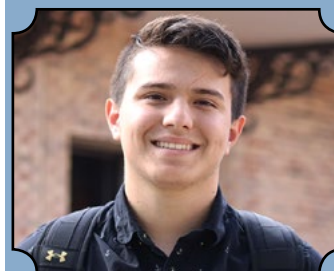
The main message is that whatever makes you happy, whatever your interests, likes or goals are, shouldn't have to make sense to other people.

You shouldn't feel ashamed of the things you enjoy or are passionate about because of the opinions of others or because they don't meet a societal standard.

They are what make you unique, they make sense to you, they bring you happiness in your life, and that is the most important person that it should matter to, yourself.



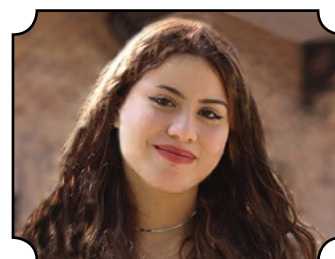
What are you most excited about this semester?



Samuel Olivarez

business management freshman

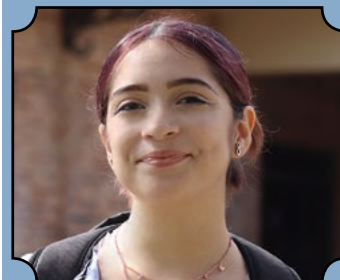
"I am most excited about my new job with AmeriCorps. So, that is what I am most excited about this semester."



Ariadna Jimenez

kinesiology for physical therapy freshman

"I'm taking this class called Intro to French and I'm really happy that I am taking that class. It's so hard to get in."



Destiny Torres

estudiante de primer año en el programa médico

"Este semestre van a traer un club de fitness que se llama power lifting y estoy muy emocionada por eso".

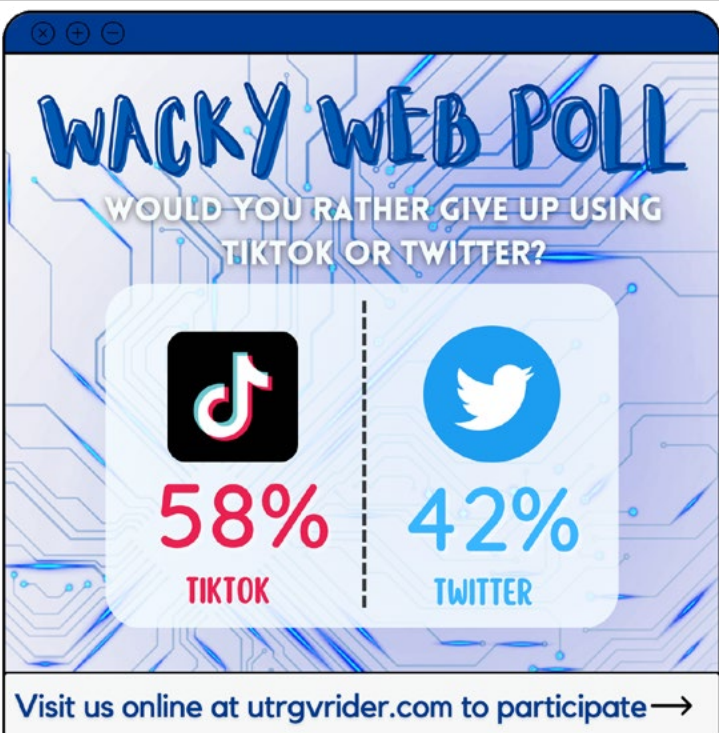
"Este semestre creo que va a ser un gran reto para mi. Muchas de mis clases están muy temprano ahora. Estoy muy emocionado de ver como se desarrollaran las clases de mi carrera y aprender más de la medicina".



Christopher Escobar

estudiante de tercer año de ciencias biomédicas

--Compiled and photos by Daniela Martinez Salazar



AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

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La representación importa

Estudiante de UTRGV entre los estudiantes multiculturales más prometedores



Isabel Morales/FOTO RIDER

Estudiante de último año de comunicación Carlos Luna, estudiante asistente en la Oficina de Educación Profesional y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral, participará en un programa de inmersión en la industria de cuatro días en Nueva York en febrero. Luna será reconocido por la Federación Americana de Publicidad como uno de los estudiantes multiculturales más prometedores. El programa se ejecuta del 13 al 16 de febrero.

Fatima Gamez Lopez

EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Comenzando el año llevando a UTRGV a los nacionales, el estudiante de último año de comunicación Carlos Luna fue nombrado como uno de los 50 estudiantes multiculturales más prometedores del 2023 por la Federación Americana de Publicidad (AAF por sus siglas en inglés).

El programa Más Prometedor brinda a las empresas de publicidad, medios, comunicaciones y tecnología la oportunidad de aprovechar el talento de alto rendimiento de 50 estudiantes universitarios diversos de todo el país, según un comunicado de prensa de la AAF del 10 de enero.

Estudiantes de más de 140 capítulos universitarios aplicaron al programa. La clase de este año tuvo un promedio de GPA de 3.7 y representó a 28 escuelas y 18 estados de todo el país, incluidos California, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, Nueva York y Texas.

Luna dijo que se enteró del programa aprovechando cada oportunidad que se le presentó.

“Entonces, cuando lo de multicultural ... surgió, solo quería lanzar mi sombrero al anillo, ver si podía ser parte de eso y me aceptaron”, dijo Luna. “Fue muy humillante y [yo] tenía un poco del síndrome del impostor. Pero, quiero decir, aquí estamos ahora. Y estoy feliz de representar a UTRGV”.

Para el proceso de solicitud, los estudiantes elegibles proporcionaron cartas de recomendación, carpetas, un currículum y un resumen de su participación en la comunidad. Cada nominado también escribió un ensayo sobre por qué la diversidad es importante, cómo sus habilidades les permitirán convertirse en profesionales de la publicidad y por qué eligieron su carrera.

Luna dijo que se inspiró en Kimberly A. Selber, profesora asociada en el departamento de Comunicación, quien lo ayudó durante todo el proceso de solicitud.

“Ella ha sido muy, muy, muy útil para mí”, dijo Luna. “Le doy crédito a la mayor parte de lo que he hecho simplemente por inspirarme en sus clases y en cómo ella [es] tan apasionada por la publicidad”.

Los 50 estudiantes participarán en un programa de inmersión en la industria de cuatro días entre el 13 y el 16 de febrero en Nueva York. El programa incluirá talleres de desarrollo profesional y marca personal, la ceremonia y el almuerzo de premios Construyendo Puentes para Nuestro Futuro, y la Expo del reclutador, según el comunicado de prensa.

Luna dijo que al crecer, se dio cuenta de que había una falta de representación multicultural en las películas.

“Siempre me pareció un tabú o poco natural cuando veías a una persona hispana”, dijo Luna. “Recuerdo haber pensado, como, ‘Oh, eso es raro’. Pero no

debería ser raro, ¿sabes? Entonces, la representación es muy importante para mí, al menos por la razón de que no quiero que los niños crezcan viendo a la gente como yo, sin ver su cultura representada en ningún tipo de medio”.

Luna dijo que estaba feliz de representar a UTRGV cuando vio que estaba en la lista entre grandes universidades, como la Universidad de Texas en Austin y la Universidad Estatal de Pensilvania.

“Recuerdo haber pensado, como, ‘Oh, eso es raro’. Pero no debería ser raro, ¿sabes? Entonces, la representación es muy importante para mí, al menos por la razón de que no quiero que los niños crezcan viendo a la gente como yo, sin ver su cultura representada en ningún tipo de medio”

--Carlos Luna

Estudiante de último año de comunicación

declaró Pacheco. “El hecho de que la AAF pueda desarrollar un grupo tan diverso que represente lo mejor de toda América del Norte es coherente con nuestra misión de desarrollar la próxima generación de líderes publicitarios”.

Luna aconseja a los futuros estudiantes multiculturales que busquen estar en esta lista que crean en sí mismos.

“No hay un momento correcto o incorrecto. ... Tienes que quererlo más que nadie”, dijo. “Si lo quieres, ve por ello. Si no estás preparado para ello, espera, ya sabes, llegará el momento. Y sé que hay algo más que quería decir para los estudiantes multiculturales. ... No importa de dónde seas. Si te apasiona, hazlo, simplemente aprovecha lo que el mundo tiene para ofrecer”.

“Ver la Universidad de Texas Rio Grande Valley es un poco humillante, se ve muy bien”, dijo. “Me hizo reír, pero no de una manera vergonzosa, sino como, ‘Wow, maldita sea, lo estamos haciendo. Vamos a estar representando.”

Steve Pacheco, director ejecutivo de la AAF, declaró en el comunicado de prensa que está orgulloso de los estudiantes seleccionados.

“Ahora, más que nunca, la necesidad de conectar a los jóvenes talentos con la industria de la publicidad es una prioridad para todos”,

hecho de que la AAF pueda desarrollar un grupo tan diverso que represente lo mejor de toda América del Norte es coherente con nuestra misión de desarrollar la próxima generación de líderes publicitarios”.

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Nombre: Luis Daniel de La O Diosdado

Carrera: Historia

Clasificación: Alumno de posgrado

Fecha de graduación: Otoño 2023



Isabel Morales/FOTO RIDER

Ciudad natal: Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México

Actividades extracurriculares: “Comencé ... un canal de YouTube. ... Así que este es ahora mi principal pasatiempo que he estado tratando de nutrir tanto como puedo, porque creo que hay mucha ... información errónea, especialmente ahora con las redes sociales y, tú sabes, estos puntos de venta que tal vez no sean fuentes académicamente verificadas. Y la gente realmente cree en ellos sin desafiar, cuestionar, ya sabes, cosas como las que hacemos aquí en la universidad”.

¿Qué diferencias encuentras entre tu ciudad nativa y los Estados Unidos? “Vaya, esa es una pregunta realmente desafiante porque al principio pensé, ‘Bueno, siempre he vivido aquí, justo en la frontera. Tengo amigos, tengo familiares que están [en] ambos lados de la frontera.’ Pero luego, cuando ingresé a la universidad ... comencé a encontrar una visión del mundo completamente diferente, en el sentido de que, ya sabes, tienes una población estudiantil muy diversa, en la que algunos se inclinan más hacia este lado del espectro político, otros se inclinan más hacia otro lado del espectro político”.

¿Cuáles son tus metas? “Mi objetivo inmediato es graduarme, ¿verdad? Llegar a la fecha de graduación a tiempo. ... Pero, aparte de eso, ya sabes, tal vez buscar trabajo o algo así. Eso es un poco más complejo para nosotros los estudiantes internacionales en el corto plazo. Pero a la larga ... tal vez tenga algo de tiempo para encontrar un buen lugar para establecerme, ya sabes, para encontrar un trabajo estable [y] una comunidad estable”.

¿Quién es tu modelo a seguir? “Mi modelo a seguir fue mi abuelo, que era maestro. En realidad soy maestro, soy maestro certificado. Y cubro principalmente estudios sociales, historia, geografía [y] economía. Pero hay algo con mi abuelo que siempre me atrajo de niño. ... Y esa es una de las razones por las que comencé a llevar mi nivel académico, al siguiente paso en la maestría. Desafortunadamente, acababa de fallecer el año pasado. ... Así que lo único que lamenta es que ahora no podré mostrarle mi diploma”.

¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás? “Cuando estaba en la primaria, comencé a tener ... un interés en la [historia]. ... Empecé a dividir todos estos años según eras. ... Un amigo mío me llamó y me dijo: ‘Daniel, ¿te parece bien si puedo pedirte [algo]?’ Y yo estaba como, ‘Sí, claro, ¿qué es?’ Resulta que había reprobado su examen final. ... Así que le pedí su libro y todas las notas que había tomado durante el semestre. Y en el lapso de una noche, en realidad pude repasar todo el curso, en el lapso de una sola noche. ... De hecho, logré aprobar el examen. ... Y luego me preguntó: ‘Oye, ¿has considerado, ya sabes, ser maestro? Como, eres muy bueno explicando cosas’. ... Así que decidí, ‘Bueno, me interesa la historia y soy bueno explicando cosas’. ... Entonces, ahí es donde comenzó todo el viaje. Y aquí estoy”.

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales? “En primer lugar, deben dedicarse a aprender, no solo aprender, sino practicar el idioma inglés fuera del ámbito académico, porque ese era mi mayor reto. Cuando [entré] a la universidad por primera vez, estaba tomando [comunicación], estaba tomando matemáticas [y] estaba tomando todos estos cursos diferentes. Y en realidad entendía al profesor. ... Pero luego, cuando salí del salón de clases, resultó que la población estudiantil hablaba un conjunto completamente diferente de palabras en el idioma inglés que nunca me habían enseñado en mi vida. Así que comencé lento pero constante. ... Mi segundo consejo es que no sean tímidos, que digan lo que piensan, especialmente cuando se trata de su campo, de su carrera [y] de su viaje académico. ... Siempre haga preguntas, siempre acérquese al funcionario académico, acérquese siempre a sus profesores, y estoy muy seguro de que encontrará ayuda absoluta”.

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

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A 'lost art' resurging

Omar E. Zapata

A&E EDITOR

The experience of buying a vinyl record and listening to the “crackle and pop” of it is not something of the past but of the present and possibly future, with local record shops going strong, younger audiences’ growing appreciation and statistics that show continuous growth in the U.S.

The U.S. 2022 Luminate Year-End Music Report states the ongoing vinyl trend is not a one-and-done type of phenomena with sales growing for a 17th consecutive year and for the second straight year, the leading format for album purchases, outselling CDs.

In 2022, 43.46 million vinyl albums were sold, up 4.2% from 41.72 million in 2021. Vinyl album sales accounted for 43% of all albums sold in the U.S. in 2022 across all formats—digital and physical. Of the 79.89 million physical albums sold, which include CDs, vinyl LPs and cassette tapes, vinyls comprised 54.4%.

Isaac Omar Herrera, co-owner of Soundstream Records, a McAllen-

based pop-up shop established in 2016 with the goal of bringing vinyl records to the Rio Grande Valley, said he has noticed the younger generation is growing more fond of the medium, which is why he thinks vinyl is here to stay.

“People want to hold their music in their hands,” Herrera said. “[Streaming] a song is different than pulling out a record, turning on your turntable, putting the record on and looking for your favorite song and waiting for it to come on or listening to the album in [its entirety.] It’s just an experience and in the world of streaming, to experience an album is kind of like this lost art form that has slowly found its way back into the hearts of millions of people.”

Attending various pop-up markets or coffee shops throughout the Valley, Herrera said the shared love and passion for music with his wife and co-owners started the business with the idea that it can be a portable record store that can be taken to different spots across the Valley.

“I think that growth in appreciation for vinyl records is something beautiful

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER
Tony Ramirez, owner of Frank’s Collection Record Shop in downtown Harlingen, poses with one of his favorite records, Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Live at Filmore West - Close Night 4 July 1971,” last Tuesday.

and I have a lot of respect for people who are getting into it by buying their favorite,” he said. “It’s something that people will just have the ability to love instantly.”

Herrera said Soundstream Records will have a permanent location in Pharr in the coming months as the business signed a lease the previous week but

will still attend pop-up markets and businesses in the future.

The record store will announce its location soon on its Instagram, @soundstreamrecords.

Karina N. Alegre, an English creative writing junior, said she bought her first albums in 2016 and was influenced by

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez

ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-This week, deep conversations may start to arise. Don’t shy away from these topics as they will provide clarity. Be open-minded about what others have to say and consider whether they are the right match for you or not. It is OK to have different beliefs or perspectives from others. Embrace it.

Leo-The first weeks of school can be stressful but don’t panic. It will be easier further down the semester. For now, focus on what needs to be done and make room for your mental health, too. Sooner or later, you’ll look back to this day and think about how far you’ve come.

Sagittarius-Instead of letting anxiety get the best of you, replace it with remarkable possibilities that can happen. This year, let go of energy that does not benefit you. If something does not feel right, maybe it’s because it isn’t right for you. Trust your intuition and follow what is meant for you.

Libra-Lately, a lot of things have been catching up to you, making you feel overwhelmed and tired. However, don’t let these factors discourage you. Start off by making small adjustments to what is preventing you from moving forward. Think about the outcome and what you can do to get there.

Gemini-Leading into a new decision blindsided is a risky move, but sometimes these choices lead us to major success. Don’t contemplate what to do next, just jump right to it. Whatever happens next will prepare you for what the future has in store for you.

Aquarius-Live your birthday season to the greatest, Aquarius. Do what you never imagine you’d do, go for an adventure. End bad habits and start off the year with positive ones. Use time wisely by making a mark for yourself. Don’t be afraid to get out of your comfort zone.

Scorpio-Although the semester may be difficult because of certain obstacles, remind yourself to stay on track by doing work to get ahead during your free time. Everything is possible as long as you put time and dedication into it. You did not come this far to give up, Scorpio.

Pisces-This year is full of new goals and aspirations for you, so don’t lose sight of it. Work at your own pace and keep the same attitude throughout the year. Be fearless and tackle any encounter that may come in between. If you want something, go after it. The sky’s the limit.

Cancer-New opportunities are approaching you this week; therefore, stay on top by preserving your energy. Colleagues or friends will communicate new ideas for projects, consider what they say and have a conversation about it. Don’t get carried away with anything just yet. Be patient.

Taurus-Acknowledge yourself for all the hard work you’ve done by going on a shopping spree, booking a self-care appointment or socializing. Take pride in what you do instead of brushing it off. Love yourself to the fullest extent possible. You deserve it.

Virgo-Now that it is a new year, you can start fresh. Make a list of things you’d want to change and act on it. Now is the time to focus on yourself and be productive. Start off by getting organized, doing volunteer work, or taking care of those in need.

Capricorn-Last year was a rough patch, but this year you will regain confidence and reinvent yourself. Avoid feeling sour about what you’ve gone through. Instead learn from it and redirect your perspective. Having a clear, positive mindset will attract wonderful opportunities.



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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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





PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Kinesiology junior Nayla Harris is a runner for the UTRGV Women's Track & Field Team. Harris graduated from Seguin High School in Seguin. She reached the Class 5A State Track & Field Meet every year it was held during her high school career.

Q: What movies or shows do you like?

A: "My favorite movie is 'Step Brothers.' I love the stupid, funny movies that make no sense and make you not want to laugh, but you're going to laugh anyway. I'm watching [Netflix's] 'Ginny and Georgia' right now. I think it came out with a new season, so I'm watching that. It's pretty good, the second season. I don't want to get through it too fast."

Q: How did you get started in track?

A: "When I was in elementary school, and it was, like, recess and [I was] always playing games and running around chasing around the boys and stuff. They would be like, 'You can't catch me. You can't catch me,' and I would end up catching them. We would race and I realized I'm fast. I'm faster than these boys. I started track when I was like around 10. ... I wasn't as good as I thought I was, but when I got to middle school I started getting better and winning and stuff. So, I did track in middle school and in high school, too."

Q: Who is one of your role models?

A: "[Jamaican sprinter] Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. I feel like she is so fast and she has a bunch of things she does. She had a baby, too, and she's still running. She's not getting older, but she's still doing things that no one really would be doing after giving birth and having kids. She's a positive role model. She'll go out to poor neighborhoods and be there and talk to them. [Another person is] my mom. First, she was married then got divorced. And it was just me, my brother and her. She worked all the time. ... She still did things for us. She made sure we still had fun and not knowing really what's going on. She worked and got us to different places and did things for us. Then she married my stepdad and everything got better. I'm so grateful that we have a mom like her. I know there are some people that don't really have moms that really care about them."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

Swinging into a new season

Jose Medina

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Men's Tennis Team began its new season with three matches against Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma and its first home matches against St. Mary's University, making its record 2-2 as of press time.

The Vaqueros played two matches against Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Tyler last Saturday at SMU. As of press time, results were not available.

Asked how the team has been preparing, head coach Nathan Robinson replied they have been working hard during the offseason.

"Playing a lot of tournaments, getting on the court," Robinson said. "We had three guys stay down here in the [Rio Grande] Valley and worked pretty hard. And guys who went back home spent, you know, three or four hours a day on the court looking for tournaments."

He said the players came back in good shape and showed it after their 4-3 victory Jan. 16 against Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma.

Senior Te Kani Williams said he practiced with sophomore teammate Sam Whitehead during the offseason.

"We did a lot of preseason training," Williams said. "We worked hard every day. I know a lot of the guys went home and worked really hard as well. ... I think, mentally, we just sort of visualize winning and an end goal in mind, which is winning a championship."

UTRGV competed in four tournaments during the fall, including the UTSA Roadrunner Invitational, Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regionals, M25 Harlingen International Tennis Federation and the UTRGV Tennis College-am hosted at the Orville I.

Cox Tennis Center.

Asked how he prepared for the season, freshman Agustin Salazar replied he had been training, going to the gym and running a lot.

Salazar said he tries to "remain calm" and "see how it goes."

Robinson said the team has good chemistry.

"These guys all have similar focuses and similar plans and [the] same goals," he said. "It makes everything very easy. They're just hard-working guys who like being on the tennis court and being around each other."

Williams believes Robinson has fostered a positive working environment and culture in general.

"With our coach, I feel like he's a great leader," he said. "From the beginning of the semester in the fall, he's really outlined what he hopes for us this season."

Williams said coming off their first win of the season showed how well the team gets along and how they push each other forward.

"I think all the guys have shown up wanting to get better every day,"

he said. "Within the team, I feel like, this year, it's a really positive environment. The chemistry is great."

Williams said achieving their first Division 1 victory early on sets the tone for the rest of the season.

"Winning definitely feels good, especially when it comes early and is such a team effort," he said. "There were a lot of three-set matches. It was a big fight, so I feel like coming off that, it was really positive for us going forward. It's going to be better than last season and we're hoping to win."

The Vaqueros ended last season with a record of 2-4 in conference and 6-17, overall.

Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Business administration senior Te Kani Williams carries out a forehand hit last Wednesday at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus.



THIS WEEK IN SPORTS



Men's Tennis
Friday vs. Lamar University
10 a.m.
AT THE UTRGV ORVILLE I. COX TENNIS CENTER



Men's Basketball
Saturday vs. California Baptist University
6:30 p.m.
AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

we are now. And I'm happy to be representing UTRGV."

For the application process, eligible students provided recommendation letters, a portfolio, a resume and a summary of community involvement. Each nominee also wrote an essay about why diversity is important, how their skills will enable them to become advertising professionals and why they chose their major.

Luna said he was inspired by Kimberly A. Selber, an associate professor in the department of Communication, who helped him throughout the application process.

"She's been very, very, very helpful to me," Luna said. "I credit most of what I've done for just being inspired by her classes, and how she [is] so passionate about advertising."

The 50 students will

participate in a four-day industry immersion program between Feb. 13 and 16 in New York. The program will include professional development and personal branding workshops, the Building Bridges for Our Future Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, and Recruiter's Expo, according to the news release.

Luna said that growing up, he realized there was a lack of multicultural representation in movies.

"It always seemed taboo or unnatural when you would see a Hispanic person," Luna said. "I remember just thinking, like, 'Oh, that's weird.' But it shouldn't be weird, you know? So, representation is so important to me, at least for the reason that I don't want kids to grow up seeing people like I did, not seeing their culture represented in any kind of media."

Luna said he was happy to be representing UTRGV when he saw he was on the list among

big universities, such as the University of Texas at Austin and Penn State University.

"Seeing University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, it's kind of humbling, it looks really cool," he said. "It made me laugh, but not in a, like, an embarrassing way but just like, 'Wow, dang, we're doing it. We're going to be representing.'"

Steve Pacheco, CEO of the AAF, stated in the news release that he is proud of the selected students.

"Now, more than ever, the need to connect young talent to the advertising industry is a top priority for everyone," Pacheco stated. "The fact that the AAF can develop such a diverse group representing the best from across North America is consistent with our mission to develop the Next Generation of Advertising leaders."

Luna advises upcoming multicultural students looking to make it on this list to believe in themselves.

Mass communication senior Carlos Luna, a student assistant for the Office of Professional Education and Workforce Development, will participate in a four-day industry immersion program in New York in February. Luna will be recognized by the American Advertising Federation as one of the Most Promising Multicultural Students. The program runs from Feb. 13-16.

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

"There is no right or wrong time," he said "... You have to want it more than anyone else does. If you want it, go for it. If you are not ready for it, wait it out, you know, [the] time will come. And I know there's

something else I wanted to say for the multicultural students. ... It doesn't matter where you are from. If you are passionate about it, go for it, just take advantage of what the world has to offer."

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

Ekin Ozenir, International Master and a member of UTRGV Chess Team B, moves a pawn to G3 on Jan. 13 in the Chess Program Office on the Brownsville campus. Ozenir is practicing for upcoming competitions this semester.

maybe some luck.' Then we won for the second time. So, people understood, 'Well, probably, it wasn't just luck.' But then, when we won for the third time, people realized that 'Well, maybe they are good.'"

Considering it was each UTRGV player's first Pan-American Tournament, Macieja is proud of how the team competed as well as the place they received.

"The goal of the competition was to qualify [for] the Final Four," International Master Jurai Druska said. "So, even if we finished fourth, we would be happy."

A member of the UTRGV A Team, Druska noticed in past competitions that he would lose energy by the end of the tournament. To prepare for the Pan-American, he took up jogging to build his mental stamina.

"I gained some rating points, so that means I played better than I was

expected to, so I'm happy," Druska said.

Asked how he felt about competing without Team B during the Final Four Tournament, Druska said it was unfair and believed they played the better game.

During the final rounds, it was a close match between the UTRGV B Team and Webster University.

"In the last round, it came up to me ... and if I could draw, but I couldn't draw the game, we would have gone instead of [Team A]," International Master Ekin Ozenir said. "So, it was, like, a pretty good tournament for us."

"Finishing in the top four feels good. Of course, they finished third and we can't go into the final tournament now but we did better than I expected for the tournament."

Macieja said the chess team will compete in other tournaments in preparation for the upcoming Final Four Championship, as well as group training, individual training and online tournaments.

own Freddy Fender.

At 74 years old, Ramirez still has a strong passion for records. He also collects CDs, cassettes, posters and coins.

Ramirez, a graduate of legacy institution Pan-American University, taught English at colleges across South Texas.

With retirement looming, he said his wife asked him what he would do when he retired, and he replied, "I'm gonna try to open a record shop and see if it works."

"All the other record shops closed the time I opened," Ramirez said. "So, all of their business came my way. So, it's been an instant success. I've been going on 15 years. Same spot and everything."

Upon the age of the CD, Ramirez said he was buying crates of vinyl albums for around \$10 to \$20 and storing them for the record store one day.

"When I retired, I got a table at Market Days to see if it would work," he said. "I was busy from the moment I opened to the moment I closed."

Asked why people keep buying vinyl records, Ramirez replied, "People like the crackle, the pop, the idea of putting the record on, listening to it, flipping it. All this mechanical stuff that goes along with playing the record."

"Because once a CD goes bad, it's bad. You can't fix it. But you can still clean a record, get the dirt off and it'll still play. You just take care of them. They last forever."

One trend Ramirez has noticed in recent years is the number of young people buying Frank Sinatra's music.

"That was their grandparents' music, not their parents' music ... but they're buying Sinatra," he said. "So, I keep him in stock all the time and I show him on

a regular basis."

Another trend he has recently noticed is the resurgence of Tejano album purchases, such as La Mafia and Brownsville's own Mazz.

Ramirez said the age group he sells to the most is between 25 and 35, with rock being the most popular genre and Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Metallica, Iron Maiden and Black Sabbath being the most requested.

Herrera said some of the most requested records are albums that are back-to-front perfect albums, such as "Rumours" by Fleetwood Mac or Prince and The Revolution's "Purple Rain."

In Luminate's report, rock music accounted for 51.38%, or 22.52 million, of all vinyl albums sold in 2022.

The top 10 selling vinyl albums of 2022 in the U.S. included two Taylor Swift albums, "Folklore" and "Midnights," which was No. 1 with 945,000 albums sold, and two Tyler the Creator records, "Call Me If You Get Lost," with 211,000 units sold, and "Igor," with 172,000.

Kendrick Lamar's 2012 album "good kid, m.A.A.d city" sold 254,000 albums for the fourth spot. Even albums from the '60s through the '80s made the top 10, with Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours" selling 243,000; Michael Jackson's "Thriller," 168,000; and The Beatles' "Abbey Road," 160,000.

Asked what he thinks about Taylor Swift having the highest-selling album of 2022, Ramirez replied, "She boosted the interest in vinyl records. A lot of people that listen to her music probably don't have a record player, but they bought the record. Now they want to listen to the record, so they had to buy a record player and it increased the interest in vinyl."

Herrera said he appreciates artists, such as Taylor Swift, who makes it fun for her fans by selling her albums in different color copies and editions despite a concern in the record community of big artists mainstreaming the vinyl industry.

"I think records are here to stay," he said. "I don't think that they're going to go anywhere anytime soon. And just because big artists are getting involved, I don't think that's harming the community at all. If anything, it's bringing in younger individuals to this fun hobby."

Samantha Davila, a marketing junior, is another student getting into collecting records. As an avid Harry Styles fan, her first album purchase was "Fine Line" in 2019 and her latest is 2022's "Harry's House," which sold 480,000 copies last year, the second-highest-selling vinyl album sold that year.

Davila said she bought the vinyls as a collector's thing at first but plans to buy more and invest in an expensive record player for better sound quality.

"I am planning to have these [records] hopefully, like, when I move houses and ... keep them throughout time and you can give them to your children or, you know, pass them on," she said. "And I know, like, a lot of people do get into vinyls, like, through their grandparents."

Davila's next purchase is Frank Ocean's 2016 album, "Blonde," which is notoriously hard to obtain and has a resale price ranging from \$100 to \$300.

"Lay down in your bed, have your record player next to you, put [the record] on and just kick back and enjoy the music," Ramirez said. "You will feel it. You will feel the vinyl is talking to you."