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Celebrating culture and community

Teresita Dominguez

THE RIDER

Brownsville is celebrating its 86th annual Charro Days through Saturday with traditional dances, parades, a costume ball and a carnival.

Charro Days kicked off last Saturday with *Baile del Sol*, featuring students from the Brownsville Independent School District and live music by Tejano musician Gary Hobbs, according to the Charro Days *Fiesta* Facebook page.

Henry LeVrier, president of Charro Days *Fiesta*, encourages Brownsville residents to dress up to promote the Charro Days spirit.

"I would like to encourage everyone to dress up in the Charro Days attire during the Charro Days week and to decorate their business and home to promote the Charro Days spirit," LeVrier said.

Charro Days was created in 1938, during the depths of the Great Depression, said Anthony Knopp, vice president of the Brownsville Historical Association and an emeritus professor of history at UTRGV.

In the hope of attracting people to Brownsville to increase revenue while also boosting local morale, businessman Kenneth Faxon got together with other local dignitaries to see what they could do. Faxon was known as the "father" of Charro Days, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

"They decided they would try to have a celebration, you know, focusing on Mexican cultural aspects," Knopp said.

Charro Days was created to try to stimulate the economy when there "wasn't much going on," LeVrier said.

PHOTO COURTESY @GOVABBOTT/TWITTER

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott appoints retired U.S. Border Patrol Agent Mike Banks (right) as Texas' first-ever border czar on Jan. 30 during a tour of the state's border wall in Los Indios. Also shown is Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Suelzer, head of the Texas Military Department.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez said he will work with the state's first-ever border czar, Mike Banks, for a "safer Texas" in a way that is "fair and equitable."

During a phone interview last Tuesday with *The Rider*, Cortez said Banks will "add value to protect the border."

Asked about his thoughts on Gov. Greg Abbott appointing a border czar based in Hidalgo County, Cortez replied he understands Abbott is trying to help a bad situation.

"Based on the conversations that I have had with Mr. Banks, you know, they are talking about assisting law enforcement with the flow of drugs, with the flow of cash, you know, illicit cash, with the flow of weapons," he said. "All those are good things to help with because they bring, you

know, danger to ... our state in our area."

Cortez said he will work with Banks for a "safer Texas."

"If I'm asked to call for an emergency because there's an emergency and the facts show that there's an emergency ... I'm going to call for an

Provost candidate responds to concerns of 'disparity' between campuses

Silvana Villarreal

THE RIDER

UTRGV professors voiced their concerns about campus accessibility and focus on the College of Engineering and Computer Science after a candidate for provost and vice president for Academic Affairs spoke in an open forum last Tuesday.

Jenna Carpenter currently serves as dean and professor in the College of Engineering at Campbell University in North Carolina.

Carpenter previously held the responsibilities of hiring staff and faculty, overseeing undergraduate and graduate programs, curricular offerings, developments and student workers as department head for the

College of Engineering from 1998-2008.

The UTRGV provost and vice president for Academic Affairs' duties include direct oversight for the 11 academic and health colleges and library in addition to Strategic Enrollment, Student Affairs, Student Success, Secondary Educational Partnerships and more, according to the UTRGV website.

Engineering and Computer Science Professor Mahmoud K. Quweider asked Carpenter how she would incorporate Brownsville in her plans.

Quweider said the Brownsville campus rarely has the right representation and the campuses are unequal in opportunity.

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

Jenna Carpenter, candidate for provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, speaks about her experience as the founding dean and professor of Engineering at Campbell University during a forum held Feb. 14 in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
Till' Movie Screening
The **Council for Cultural Activities** will host a free screening of the movie "Till", directed by **Chinonye Chukwu**, in observance of **Black History Month** from 1 to 3 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday in Library Room 1.311 on the Edinburg campus.

Pre-Dental Society General Meeting
The **Pre-Dental Society** will host a meeting about volunteer opportunities, dental school panels, discussions and more from 4:45 to 6:45 p.m. in Education Complex Room 1.530 on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday
Blackboard Presentation
The **Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology** will host a presentation **for students** on the learning management system platform **Blackboard Learn Ultra** from 10 to 11 a.m. in Student Union Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in Education Complex Room 3.204 on the Edinburg campus. The **faculty session** will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Student Union Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in Education Complex Room 3.204 on the Edinburg campus. Students may also join via Zoom.

Mass Celebration
The **Catholic Student Association** will **celebrate Mass** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the University Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Blackboard Lab
The **Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology** will host a **hands-on lab for students** on the learning management system platform **Blackboard Learn Ultra** from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.518 on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in Academic Services Building Room 2.160 on the Edinburg campus. The **faculty lab** will take place at the same time in Main Building Room 1.504 on the Brownsville campus and in Academic Services Building Room 2.164 on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday
Canvas Presentation
The **Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology** will host a presentation **for students** on the learning management system platform **Instructure Canvas** from 10 to 11 a.m. in Student Union Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in the Education Complex 3.204 on the Edinburg campus. The **faculty session** will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Student Union Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in the Education Complex 3.204 on the

Edinburg campus. Students may also join via Zoom.

Charreada
The **Campus Activities Board, Student Activities** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host **Charreada** in celebration of the City of Brownsville's annual **Charro Days** from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Canvas Lab
The **Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology** will host a **hands-on lab for students** on the learning management system platform **Instructure Canvas** from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.526 on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in Academic Services Building Room 2.102 on the Edinburg campus. The **faculty lab** will take place at the same time in Main Building Room 1.504 on the Brownsville campus and in Academic Services Building Room 2.158 on the Edinburg campus.

The Age of Science Fiction
The **Science Fiction and Fantasy Interest Group** will host a discussion on the "**Golden Age of Science Fiction**" from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom.

Thursday
LMS Open Lab
The **Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology** will host an **open lab for the campus community** to provide feedback on the learning management system

platforms **Instructure Canvas** and **Blackboard Ultra Learn**. Labs are available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. on both campuses. The **Canvas labs** will take place in Main Building Room 2.518 on the Brownsville campus and in Academic Services Building Room 2.160 on the Edinburg campus. The **Blackboard labs** will take place in Main Building Room 1.504 on the Brownsville campus and in Academic Services Building Room 2.164 on the Edinburg campus.

Book Club
The **Student Union and InqSpot Student Union Book Club** will meet to discuss the book "**Their Eyes Were Watching God**" by **Zora Neale Hurston** in observance of **Black History Month** from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Student Union La Sala on the Brownsville campus and at the same time in Student Union Palmetto Room on the Edinburg campus.

Friday
Student Senate Meeting
The **Student Government Association** will meet from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus.

Leadership Workshop
The **Student Leadership Academy** will hold a workshop on **different leadership styles** from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Silvana Villarreal

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 8 and 14.

Feb. 8
11:04 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Science Building on the Edinburg campus regarding several students stuck inside an elevator. Facilities personnel were able to gain entry and retrieve the students without further incident.

11:58 a.m.: A staff member reported that a student fell asleep and was unresponsive inside a classroom on the Edinburg campus. The student woke up and said she was tired and disoriented after not sleeping all night. Student Health Center personnel evaluated her and determined she was OK.

3:53 p.m.: A UTRGV student reported he forgot a bank deposit bag, which contained documents and money, in a study room in the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. Another student claimed she had found the bag by a trash can at a different location and returned it to him. The male student reported 500 pesos missing. The case is under investigation.

4:55 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the UT Health RGV Multispecialty Clinic on the Edinburg campus due to a possible altercation between medical personnel and a patient. Upon arrival, the officer made contact with the

patient, who stated that he was only having a disagreement with his doctor. The officer then contacted the medical staff, who stated that the patient was getting irate. The doctor terminated the appointment and would not see him as a patient anymore. The patient was escorted out of the building.

7:09 p.m.: A student reported falling while playing soccer and possibly fracturing his collarbone at the Intramural Fields on the Edinburg campus. Emergency medical services were dispatched to attend to the student, who was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

Feb. 9
2:01 p.m.: An officer was waved down by a Clinical Education Building employee on the Harlingen campus who requested to document a verbal incident on a misunderstanding he had with another employee while inside a restroom.

Feb. 10
7:19 a.m.: A student reported that on Feb. 8, near the Student Union on the Edinburg campus, an intoxicated man attempted to make small talk with her and made alarming comments. Officers were unable to locate or identify the man.

4:05 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Community Engagement and Student Success Building in Edinburg in reference to a possible intoxicated man in the area. Officers made contact

with students who reported that a man had walked into one of the rooms and made threats against them. Officers attempted, but were unable to locate the man. The case is under investigation.

10:39 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to the odor of marijuana in one of the apartments. Upon arrival, contact was made with a residential assistant who stated that, while conducting a health and safety check, he smelled marijuana coming from an apartment. Officers contacted two UTRGV residents and obtained consent to search the apartment. No contraband or marijuana were found.

Feb. 11
4:05 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Community Engagement and Student Success Building in Edinburg in reference to a possible intoxicated man in the area. Officers made contact with students, who reported that the man had walked into one of the rooms and made threats against them. During the investigation, officers determined that one of the students was pushed by the man. Officers attempted, but were unable to locate the man. The case is under investigation.

Feb. 13
1:35 p.m.: A student reported being sexually assaulted in her Heritage Hall dormitory on the Edinburg campus the

previous night by a non-affiliated man who she knew. The man, who is over 21, provided alcoholic beverages to the student, who is under 21. The student does not wish to pursue criminal charges at this time.

3:14 p.m.: A faculty member on the Edinburg campus reported issues she is having with a male student. An officer determined that the elements to a criminal offense were not met.

3:38 p.m.: A student reported being sexually assaulted in her Heritage Hall dormitory on the Edinburg campus the previous night by a non-affiliated man who she knew. The man, who is over 21, provided alcoholic beverages to the student, who is under 21. The student does not wish to pursue criminal charges at this time. This case is related to the case that took place at 1:35 p.m. Feb. 13 but involves a different victim and different suspect.

Feb. 14
11:53 a.m.: A student reported that, while she was in class at the Main Building on the Brownsville campus, her ex-boyfriend called her cell phone multiple times after he was informed she wanted no contact. The student stated she had also filed assault-dating violence and stalking criminal cases with the Brownsville Police Department in January for incidents that occurred off campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

THE RIDER

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

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Two new SGA members appointed

“My passion has always been, and it still is and will be, serving for the best purpose of humanity and searching for knowledge,” Hossen said. “My future aim is to make the society a peaceful place to live.”

Delgado talked about his involvement in school and why he is fit for the position.

“I believe it gives me the opportunity to grow and, you know, evolve outside of the classroom, and an opportunity to have leadership experience as well,” he said. “[It] allows me to tie back my involvement in other clubs and [organizations] outside and inside a school.”

Melanie Gutierrez, a marketing senior, was appointed chief justice. Gutierrez spoke about her journey in the SGA, first as an intern in Fall 2021 and her previous position, associate justice.

Gutierrez explained why she would be the best candidate for the position of chief justice.

“I’ve grown with SGA,” she said. “... What I’ve learned over time is how to stay unbiased in the judicial branch as well as effectively communicate within SGA and also externally with other students.”

Isabella Macias, chair of the senate, appointed Juana Jimenez as the new secretary of the senate. Jimenez, a biomedical sciences senior, is a senator at-large for the Brownsville campus. She will now assist the legislative branch by taking the senate meeting minutes.

During the executive team report, Vice President for Internal Affairs Kimberly Escalante said the team

met with Auxiliary Services regarding concerns, which were brought up at the last senate meeting, on the hours of operation of Starbucks on both campuses.

The team suggested extending the hours until 5 or 6 p.m., but the matter is still pending. The current hours of operation for SUcafé on the Edinburg campus are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Starbucks on the Brownsville campus is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

The team met with IT Services over internet reliability issues in the University Library, Science Building and Liberal Arts Buildings on the Edinburg campus and in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus, as discussed during the last senate meeting. IT Services will be checking this matter.

“If you know of any more locations, reach out to us so we can let IT [Services] know,” Escalante said.

During the adviser’s report, Program Coordinator Kourtnie Hernandez announced SGA’s general elections are open to any student in the university for executive and legislative positions.

The application will be open until March 1 and students are able to apply via V Link by clicking on the 2023-2024 SGA candidate application link. Elections will take place from April 3 to 5.

Three information sessions were held last week, one on each campus and another over Zoom, for students who wanted to learn more about the

Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Melanie Gutierrez talks about her past experience as associate justice in the Student Government Association and explains why she is the best candidate for the position of chief justice during the SGA senate meeting held Feb. 10 on the Brownsville campus.

Andrea Flores
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has appointed Md Mozadded Hossen as a senator for the Graduate College and finance freshman Alfonso Delgado as senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship.

Each was advised to give a two-to-three-minute speech before the

senate’s vote on their appointment at the Feb. 10 senate meeting.

Hossen is pursuing a doctoral degree in rehabilitation counseling at UTRGV and spoke about his academic experience. He has a master’s in Clinical Mental Health from Lamar University. Hossen explained that while being a UTRGV student, he formed the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association student chapter.



Student Government Association Senate Meetings Schedule

EDINBURG CAMPUS

2:30 P.M. IN ESTAC 2.130

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

2:30 P.M. IN BMSLC 1.112

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

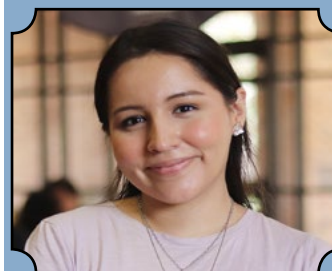
FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL SGA@UTRGV.EDU

UTRGV.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE/ORGANIZATION/SGA/EVENTS



YAQUERO VOICE

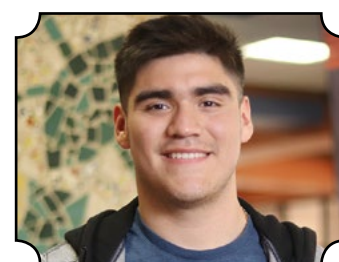
What are your favorite Charro Days festivities?



Sophie Vega
nutritional sciences senior

"My favorite Charro Day[s] festivities are the events, as an excuse to come together with friends, you know, an excuse to hang out and have fun and dress up."

"Oh, my goodness. I love all of them. All of the food, the music, the dancing, the festivities. My favorite part is seeing everyone from Mexico and the U.S. get together and party. 'Cause, I mean, what doesn't unite us? Partying, am I right?"



Jose Moreno-Tinajero
integrated health science senior



Samantha Ramos
art education junior

"Well, I don't necessarily have anything as my favorite, but I am super excited about getting to try new foods and getting to hang out with my friends and seeing all the bright colors."

"My favorite Charro Day[s] festivities are going to the parade and going to the Sombrero [Festival] just to party a little bit. You know, have fun, relax, just Charro Days, you know."



Saul Collazo
English education freshman

--Compiled and photos by Jesse Valencia and Daniela Martinez Salazar

Stay with me forever



Andrea Flores
REPORTER

About three weeks ago, my paternal grandma almost had a heart attack. Fortunately, she was taken to the hospital in time, but she fell sick afterward.

On my dad's side of the family, we have a group chat with everyone: my cousins, tios, nieces and nephews. I get tons of messages from them, but I usually ignore them since it is just my tias wishing everyone a happy day with their Tweety Bird pictures. The day my grandma fell sick, I did the same.

My mom called me and explained what happened to my grandma; she sounded worried. I didn't say anything because I couldn't think of anything. My mind went blank for a few seconds.

My mom said that I should not worry about it. So, I did

that. I pretended I didn't hear anything. I came back to whom I was talking with and I rejoined the conversation like nothing had happened. I didn't really feel anything that day, just weird and a little empty. Later, I started getting really worried.

I realized that what happened to my grandma actually made me really scared. It made me think that we could all be gone in just a second. I cried a lot the next

During the summer, I like to stay with them. There is really nothing to do besides chores. There's no air-conditioning in the house, and I don't go out or anything, but I have fun listening to their stories. On summer nights, we go to the rooftop of the house and we sit down to get some air and see the stars. I love staying with them. If I could live with them, I would.

My grandparents have gone through a lot, yet they always make sure to make me happy. If I say that the guava that I ate at their house was really good, my grandpa is going to have 50 guavas ready for me the next time I visit. It's really funny.

My grandpa told me once that we all have a thread attached to our pinky finger and that when it's time, the thread snaps. That's the end. Some people will have a long thread and others a really short one. It all depends. But when it's time, it's time. I understand that really well, but I refuse to accept it. I don't want to know about it. I'll pretend that I didn't hear that one story. From the bottom of my heart, I really wish they could stay with me forever, but I know that cannot be.

My grandpa told me once that we all have a thread attached to our pinky finger and that when it's time, the thread snaps. That's the end.

Thursday after the news of my grandma. She was getting better, but I felt overwhelmed. I remembered when my grandpa passed away, and I just could not stop crying.

I am much closer with my maternal grandparents. Unlike my other grandma, they live in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, so I see them once or twice a week. They get worried about me driving, so I try to call them every day to let them know that I am OK.

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER LOSE YOUR KEYS OR PHONE?



70%

KEYS




30%

PHONE

Visit us online at utgrvrider.com to participate →

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La opinión del juez del Condado de Hidalgo sobre el zar fronterizo



Nombre: Mina Takada

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Clasificación: Estudiante de último año

Fecha de graduación: Otoño 2023



Isabel Morales/FOTO RIDER

FOTO CORTESÍA @GOVABBOTT/TWITTER

El gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, nombra al agente retirado de la Patrulla Fronteriza de EE. UU. Mike Banks (derecha) como el primer zar fronterizo de Texas el 30 de enero durante un recorrido por el muro fronterizo del estado en San Benito. También se muestra el mayor general Thomas M. Suelzer, jefe del Departamento Militar de Texas.

Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El juez del Condado de Hidalgo, Richard Cortez, dijo que trabajará con el primer zar fronterizo del estado, Mike Banks, por un "Texas más seguro" de una manera que sea "justa y equitativa".

Durante una entrevista telefónica el martes pasado con The Rider, Cortez dijo que Banks "agregará valor para proteger la frontera".

Cuando se le preguntó qué pensaba sobre el nombramiento del gobernador Greg Abbott de tener un zar fronterizo basado en el Condado de Hidalgo, Cortez respondió que entiende que Abbott está tratando de ayudar una mala situación.

"Según las conversaciones que he tenido con el Sr. Banks, ya sabes, están hablando de ayudar a las fuerzas del orden público con el flujo de drogas, con el flujo de dinero en efectivo, ya sabes, dinero ilícito, con el flujo de armas", dijo. "Todas esas son buenas cosas con las que ayudar porque traen, ya sabes, peligro para ... nuestro estado en nuestra área".

Cortez dijo que trabajará con Banks por un "Texas más seguro".

"Si me piden que llame por una emergencia porque hay una emergencia ... voy a llamar por una emergencia", dijo. "Pero si los hechos no muestran que tenemos una emergencia o una crisis, entonces no lo haré simplemente porque me lo pidan, y espero que esté de acuerdo con eso".

Abbott nombró a Banks, un exagente de la Patrulla Fronteriza, como el primer zar fronterizo de Texas el 30 de enero durante una conferencia de prensa en San Benito.

Durante la conferencia de prensa, Banks dijo que su prioridad número una es hacer de Texas "el lugar menos deseable para que cruce la inmigración ilegal".

Banks es un exagente de patrulla a cargo de la estación de Weslaco de la Patrulla Fronteriza de EE. UU, según un comunicado de prensa del 30 de enero de la oficina del gobernador.

Tiene más de tres décadas de experiencia en liderazgo en la aplicación de la ley federal, con 23 años en operaciones y administración de seguridad fronteriza a lo largo de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

El periódico también le preguntó a Crow por el salario anual de Banks como zar fronterizo. Ella le dijo a The Rider que enviara una solicitud de información pública, que se hizo el miércoles pasado.

Banks, que reportará directamente al gobernador, supervisará la seguridad fronteriza en Texas, deteniendo la inmigración ilegal y creando planes para lidiar con las oleadas de inmigrantes, dijo Abbott durante la conferencia de prensa. Colaborará con el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas y el Departamento Militar de Texas y otras agencias estatales.

"Durante casi dos años, el estado de Texas ha tomado medidas históricas sin precedentes bajo la Operación Lone Star en respuesta al rechazo de la administración Biden de asegurar la frontera", dijo Abbott.

El estado ha gastado más de \$4 mil millones en el esfuerzo desde que comenzó la Operación Lone Star en marzo de 2021.

Desde su inicio, la Operación Lone Star ha resultado en más de 348,000 detenciones de migrantes, más de 24,000 arrestos criminales y más de 22,000 cargos por delitos graves, según un comunicado de prensa del 10 de febrero de la oficina del gobernador. Durante esta misión fronteriza, el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas incautó más de 361 millones de dosis letales de fentanilo.

Abbott dijo durante la conferencia de prensa que la construcción del muro fronterizo costará alrededor de \$25 millones por milla, dependiendo de la ubicación.

Álvaro J. Corral, profesor asistente en el Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de la UTRGV, dijo que uno de los 'temas más grandes' con respecto a la seguridad fronteriza es el muro

"Hay una tremenda cantidad de armas que van de este país a México. Hay efectivo yendo y viniendo. ... No creo que alguna vez lleguemos a un punto en el que podamos decir que todo está bien. Siempre será una lucha en la lucha contra el crimen".

-- Juez del Condado de Hidalgo, Richard Cortez

Anteriormente se desempeñó como subjefe interino de programas operativos de aplicación de la ley en la sede de la Patrulla Fronteriza en Washington, D.C.; agente de patrulla a cargo de la estación de McAllen; oficial ejecutivo y jefe interino de la división del Sector del Valle del Río Grande de la Patrulla Fronteriza; y otros puestos de liderazgo de la Patrulla Fronteriza en Texas, Arizona y California.

Banks tiene un título de asociado en administración de justicia de Southwestern College en Chula Vista, California; y una licenciatura en liderazgo organizacional de South Texas College.

The Rider solicitó a la oficina de prensa del gobernador una entrevista con Banks, pero Haley Crow, asistente de prensa, le dijo al periódico en un correo electrónico del 10 de febrero que "todavía no han comenzado a coordinar entrevistas para Mike Banks".

¿Tienes una historia que contar?
Cuéntanos que te gustaría ver en THE RIDER
882-5143 or 665-2541

Ciudad natal: Tokio, Japón

Actividades extracurriculares: "Me encanta explorar cómo... cafeterías en el Valle [del Río Grande]. ... También me encantan los tacos. Entonces, [lugares que] mis compañeros de trabajo o, como, mis amigos recomiendan, yo voy y luego los pruebo, como, un nuevo taco".

¿Cuáles son las diferencias entre tu ciudad natal y los Estados Unidos? "Soy de Japón. ... Nuestra cultura es, como, colectivista. Y aquí, está el individualismo. ... Y es, como, más dialecto. Pero en Japón, nos preocupamos por los demás, como, la opinión, o... siempre pensamos, como, lo que es mejor para nosotros, como grupo o ... una gran comunidad. Por lo tanto, nos preocupamos por los sentimientos de otras personas en lugar de nuestra propia opinión. Así que, eso es realmente, como, grandes diferencias".

¿Qué hay en tu lista de deseos? "Me gustaría viajar [a] otros países. Y luego, también quiero ir a México porque mis amigos en realidad vienen de, como, Ciudad de México ... Monterrey o Reynosa. Así que quiero ir a visitar la ciudad natal de mis amigos o compañeros de trabajo. ... Quiero probar los tacos allí".

¿Quién es tu modelo a seguir? "Mi abuelo. Cuando era joven ... su jefe ... falleció debido a un accidente. Así que necesitaba ser presidente [de una empresa] en lugar de [su jefe]. ... No tenía ninguna, como, habilidades ni nada, pero necesitaba apoyar a esa empresa. Porque eso ... sucedió de repente. ... Es muy fuerte. ... Él es la persona que puede proteger a todos los que ama. Incluso si ... es tan difícil. Nunca se daría por vencido".

¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás? "Estaba muy interesada en [la] diferencia [de] la forma en que nos comunicamos entre nosotros. ... Japón tiene diferentes estilos de comunicación. ... Primero, quería tener [la] capacidad de adaptar los estilos de comunicación de otras personas. Es por eso que quería elegir las carreras de comunicación".

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales? "Salir de nuestro país de origen es tan difícil, como vivir en un país diferente. Y luego tenemos, como, las diferentes culturas, diferentes perspectivas. Todo es diferente. ... Así que, tal vez haya muchas dificultades, pero deberíamos creer que algún día podemos ver a personas que se aman ... [y] se apoyan mutuamente".

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

emergency,” he said. “But if the facts don’t show that we have an emergency or a crisis, then I’m not going to do it just simply because I’m asked, and I hope that he agreed with that.”

Abbott named Banks, a former Border Patrol agent, as the first-ever Texas border czar on Jan. 30 during a news conference in San Benito.

During the news conference, Banks said his No. 1 priority is to make Texas “the least desirable place for illegal immigration to cross.”

Banks is a former U.S. Border Patrol Weslaco Station patrol agent in charge, according to a Jan. 30 news release from the governor’s office.

He has more than three decades of federal law enforcement leadership experience, with 23 years in border security operations and administration along the U.S.-Mexico border.

He previously served as acting deputy chief of law enforcement operational programs at the Border Patrol headquarters in Washington, D.C.; McAllen Station patrol agent

in charge; Border Patrol Rio Grande Valley Sector executive officer and acting division chief; and other various Border Patrol leadership positions in Texas, Arizona and California.

Banks holds an associate’s degree in administration of justice from Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California, and a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership from South Texas College.

The Rider asked the governor’s press office for an interview with Banks, but Haley Crow, press assistant, told the newspaper in a Feb. 10 email that they “haven’t started coordinating interviews for Mike Banks yet.”

The newspaper also asked Crow for Banks’ annual salary as border czar. She told The Rider to submit a public information request, which it did last Wednesday.

Banks, who will report directly to the governor, will oversee border security in Texas, stopping illegal immigration and creating plans for dealing with migrant surges, Abbott said during the news conference. He will collaborate with the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military

Department and other state agencies.

“For nearly two years, the State of Texas has taken unprecedented, historic action under Operation Lone Star in response to the Biden administration’s refusal to secure the border,” Abbott said.

The state has spent more than \$4 billion on the effort since Operation Lone Star began in March 2021.

Since its start, Operation Lone Star has resulted in over 348,000 migrant apprehensions, over 24,000 criminal arrests and more than 22,000 felony charges, according to a Feb. 10 news release from the governor’s office. During this border mission, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized over 361 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

Abbott said during the news conference that it will cost about \$25 million per mile to build the border wall, depending on the location.

Álvaro J. Corral, an assistant professor in the UTRGV Department of Political Science, said one of the “biggest issues” regarding border security is the border wall.

“It is really complicated for the state

of Texas to build such a wall,” Corral said. “Logistically, because there is a lot ... of rules and regulations to [do] that. Because again, it’s like, you know, some of this has to do [with] private property. Some of this is disruptive to property owners and the environment.”

Asked his assessment on border security, Judge Cortez replied the facts speak for themselves.

“There is a tremendous amount of drugs that are coming into our country,” he said. “There’s a tremendous amount of weapons that are going from this country to Mexico. There’s cash going back and forth. ... I don’t think we’ll ever get to a point that we can say that everything is fine. It will always be a struggle in fighting crime.”

Cortez said Hidalgo County will assist Banks and Abbott in any way it can.

“Hidalgo County stands for law,” he said. “We want ... to protect the rule of law [in] our county and to the extent that we can help in any way that we can, that ... we want to be good partners with them. But, again, we want to approach things in a fair and equitable way.”

“We needed to improve the spirits somehow of all the citizens, and since then, we continued to promote the spirit and we continued to involve the community to have a celebration,” he said.

Downtown merchants and political figures focused on Mexican culture in the hope of promoting the event as something unique and interesting to entice people to attend, LeVrier added.

He said organizing the event takes almost a year.

“It’s almost a 12-month operation,” LeVrier said. “We always try to do it bigger and better. So, it’s continuous planning and planning to make sure we put the best possible *fiesta* on.”

He encourages everyone to check out the events.

“You will see a lot of beautiful costumes,” LeVrier said. “You will see a lot of great foods being introduced. We encourage [people to attend].”

UTRGV will get into the spirit of the celebration Wednesday with Charreada on the Brownsville campus.

The campus event will have a similar theme, according to Cristina Rodriguez, assistant director of Student Activities.

Charreada will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday on the Student Union lawn as the primary location.

Concurrent with Charreada, the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies will host a mini-symposium from 1 to 3 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank

El Gran Salón.

“They’re going to do some poetry readings and some historical information about Charreada and Charro Days,” Rodriguez said.

Charreada will feature many activities.

“Student organizations will be able to fundraise,” Rodriguez said. “We have departments that will come out and have some activities going on. [The] Center [for] Student Involvement is sponsoring a petting zoo that we will be having. ... We’ll

have some contests going on. We’re having mariachi performances. We’re having *fólklorico* performances. So, yes, Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m., we have quite a bit happening.”

The events will be open to the campus community.

“Everything from decorations to activities, to part of the food that’s coming out is definitely trying to build the environment for students,” Rodriguez said. “Stop on by. You will definitely have a blast.”

“When you go to Edinburg tomorrow, ask how many chairs are from Edinburg versus how many are from Brownsville,” Quweider said. “How many deans are from Edinburg and how many are from Brownsville? And you will see the disparity. And you will see the inertia against making a change. These are the real issues that we have here.”

Carpenter said there is value in both doing things virtually and in person, but there has to be a balance depending on the situations.

“You can’t forget about campus ‘A’ or program ‘B,’” she said. “You also have to think about what kind of combination of what do you do in person and what do you do remotely. Because if you never meet in person, so much of the value is side conversations that happen before the meeting and you just can’t do that during Zoom.”

Gina Palacios, associate director for the School of Art and Design,

spoke about the disparity between the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, and the equity in the facilities and access to equipment.

“It’s a matter of juggling and bouncing [colleges],” she said. “When you’re an administrative role and got multiple programs, you’re trying to fit

Carpenter replied that she would go through the state and try to get more money, get funded by partnering with additional groups and find available facilities for the university to use.

“When I left Louisiana Tech [University] ... we were absolutely bursting at the seams,” she said. “We were a 40-year-old building. They finally got the building built. I have been gone eight years.”

Luis H. Zayas, also a candidate for provost, will address the campus community in an open forum from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. today in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus

and at the same time Tuesday in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

Zayas is a professor of social work and a professor of psychiatry at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin. From 2012 to 2022, he served as dean of the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at UT Austin.

“When you go to Edinburg tomorrow, ask how many chairs are from Edinburg versus how many are from Brownsville. How many deans are from Edinburg and how many are from Brownsville? And you will see the disparity. And you will see the inertia against making a change. These are the real issues that we have here.”

**--Mahmoud K. Quweider
Engineering and Computer Science Professor**

“The students have the biggest issues because they have to travel back and forth ... on the bus,” Palacios said. “[It’s] a lot to ask for on both sides.”

Carpenter was later asked what her experience was with a fine arts department and how she would include it in the spotlight along with the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

the needs and the issues.”

Margaret Rubí, a School of Nursing clinical professor, asked the provost candidate what her strategy will be to get the Brownsville campus more space.

“We are growing by the day, but we are growing out of space,” Rubí said. “When I started in September of 2019, I had 12 students. This semester, I have 40.”

elections or the SGA in general.

The Academic Affairs Standing Committee met for the first time this semester on Feb. 9. Chair Cassandra Garcia said the committee’s meeting times will be at 10 a.m. Thursdays every other week.

Garcia said the committee decided on having Meet the Deans this semester; the date and time is still pending. SGA hosts Meet the Deans, where students can interact with the dean of their respective college to talk about any concerns or ideas.

The Community and Campus Life Affairs Standing Committee will meet virtually at 5:15 p.m. every other Wednesday via Zoom.

The Financial Affairs Standing Committee met on Feb. 8 and approved \$3,761.16 in student travel funds.

Kofi Nketia Ackaah-Gyasi, senator for the College of Engineering & Computer Science, spoke on behalf of Chair Josiah Gonzalez and said the committee allocated \$9,700 from last semester to this semester.

fronterizo.

“Es realmente complicado para el estado de Texas construir un muro así”, dijo Corral. “Logísticamente, porque hay muchas ... reglas y regulaciones para [hacer] eso. Porque de nuevo, es como, ya sabes, algo de esto tiene que ver [con] la propiedad privada. Algo de esto es perjudicial para los propietarios y el medio ambiente”.

Cuando se le preguntó sobre su evaluación de la seguridad fronteriza, el juez Cortez dijo que los hechos hablan por sí mismos.

“Hay una tremenda cantidad de drogas que están entrando a nuestro país”, dijo. “Hay una tremenda cantidad de armas que van de este país a México. Hay efectivo yendo y viniendo. ... No creo que alguna vez llegemos a un punto en el que podamos decir que todo está bien. Siempre será una lucha en la lucha contra el crimen”.

Cortez dijo que el Condado de Hidalgo ayudará a Banks y Abbott en todo lo que pueda.

“El Condado de Hidalgo defiende la ley”, dijo. “Queremos ... para proteger el estado de derecho [en] nuestro condado y en la medida en que podamos ayudar de cualquier manera que podamos, que ... queremos ser buenos socios con ellos. Pero, nuevamente, queremos abordar las cosas de una manera justa y equitativa”.

ENCUÉNTRANOS EN 

 @UTRGVRIDER

 @UTRGVRIDER

Chocolate, condoms & consent



Graduate student Parker Granados informs Ghaely Castellano, a social work junior, about the South Texas Equality Project during the Chocolate, Condoms & Consent event held last Tuesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The project "is a collection of individuals and groups who campaign for the Rio Grande Valley's LGBTQIA+ population to be acknowledged, elevated and accepted," Granados said.

Isabel Morales/THE RIDER



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

2023-2024

Candidate applications

Deadline to apply:

Wednesday, March 1 at 11:59 P.M.



For more information or accommodations, contact Kourtnie Hernandez at kourtnie.hernandez@utrgv.edu.

The Sauce House: where community, culture collide in a mosh pit

Omar E. Zapata

A&E EDITOR

Established in 2018, Sauce House is not just any last-minute house show in the Rio Grande Valley but has made its own name in the community with its lineups, energy and love for the scene.

Sauce House, a DIY live music venue in San Juan that has local and out-of-the-Valley bands perform alongside vendors, is the creation of co-founders Carlos Zamora and Leo Aguilar, who are also bandmates in diseasefreak.

Attracting all walks of life, a Sauce House show typically has loud and often fast music, mosh pits, a variety of people from emos and goths to preps, and a sense of community.

"It's always going to catch people like, 'Oh, what, it's at a house?'" Zamora said. "So people are always gonna look at it a little sketchy. I mean, I don't blame them ... but when it comes to, like, introducing people to [the Sauce House], I won't describe it as a house show. I'll say it's like a community event. There's live music. There's vendors. Sometimes, there's food and drinks."

The venue is Zamora's parents' house and has hosted benefit shows in collaboration with organizations, such as Frontera Fund, a nonprofit abortion fund in the Valley.

"I personally started to see that there's a lot of potential for us to do

something that's a little more, I want to say, in the realm of, like, direct action, or mutual aid," Zamora said. "Especially mutual aid in the RGV just because we are, like, a pretty close-knit community."

Zamora added that just because it is not an official venue with official licenses and status does not mean it is any less than other establishments.

"People in the Valley have a tendency to view, like, status ... and money with nice s--- and that's what they base the legitimacy of certain events [on]," he said. "People will go to *Cine El Rey* and be like, 'Oh, that's what a concert is.' But if you tell them that live bands play in some f---ing garage, in a random neighborhood, in a random house and then hundreds of people show up, they'll be like, 'What the f--- are you talking about. That's insane.'"

Aguilar describes the Sauce House as a big congregation of people with the exchanging of energy, which results in good times.

"I feel like there's a lot of people that are into alternative music and, like, rock music and hardcore and genres like that," he said. "And we've got a new wave of younger people who want to come out to the shows and experience that kind of lifestyle. ... There ain't s--- to do here in the Valley if you really asked me. There's nothing to do besides, like, commercial stuff."

"So, like, [the Sauce House] is

Sauce House attendees participate in a mosh pit Feb. 11 during a performance by diseasefreak, the co-founders of which run the venue. With everyone pushing, jumping and colliding with each other, mosh pitters are quick to pick up any person who falls and continue the chaos.

Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER

something that we can all do. ... Everybody can put aside five or 10 bucks to go pay at the door and go to the show and you're guaranteed a good time, sometimes."

Samantha Herrera, a UTRGV rehabilitation services freshman, attended a Sauce House concert Feb. 11, which attracted around 160 people.

Herrera, who viewed the concert from the middle of several mosh pits, described it as "f---ing insane."

Asked how it feels to be in a mosh pit at the Sauce House, she replied, "It's

like a weird form of love."

"Because everyone's, like, making sure everyone is OK," Herrera said. "If you drop something, we pick it up, give it back to the performers. Everyone gets their belongings back. If you fall, they pick you up so you can't get trampled. You might get hurt, but it's out of love."

Describing the venue itself as homey, Herrera said the Sauce House has a raw element to it that she has not experienced elsewhere in the Valley.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez

ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-Stop thinking about the future and focus on the present. Instead of getting ahead of yourself, realize what you want to do now and take action. It is easy to worry about what you're going to do later and miss the opportunities that you have now.

Leo-Be strict about your boundaries. Stop letting people walk over you. It is not OK for them to come into your life whenever they decide. Protect your heart as it is something you should not take lightly. Stand up for yourself whenever it's necessary. You are too special to get hurt.

Sagittarius-Instead of depending on your friends, start taking ownership for yourself. Be who you are without the influence of others. Sometimes it is essential to have alone time to be your own person. Get to know yourself better and figure out what you want to do with your life.

Libra-Make decisions for yourself before others decide for you. Figure out what your desires are and achieve them. It is time to break the cycle you keep creating by putting your goals aside. Make progress rather than staying in the same position.

Gemini-Attempt being more patient with those around you. Remember; everyone has their own problems; therefore, be a good sport. The universe will repay you for being a good friend and putting out good energy. Remember what you put out will be reciprocated.

Aquarius-Although change could be a good thing, do not forget about your roots. Remember, those who have supported you all the way through before moving on. Be grateful about how far you've come and keep putting yourself first. The universe is proud of you, Aquarius.

Scorpio-Take the lead in your life and start making changes. Start off small and work your way up to it. Afterward, you will see how your life can benefit from making a difference. Don't be afraid about what will happen. Just go after it.

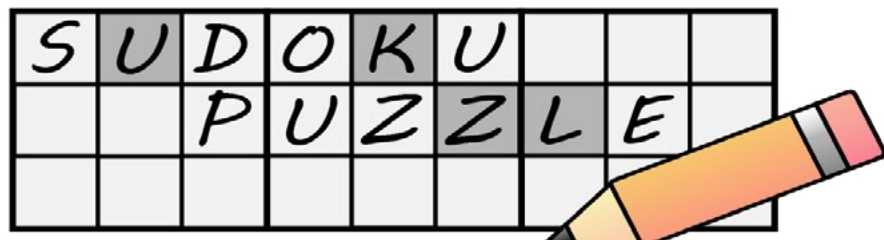
Pisces-This is a good week to connect with others and share your feelings. Confide in the people you trust to guide you through any situation. Remember, you have great friends that are willing to hear you out. Avoid loneliness by taking advantage of the friendships around you.

Cancer-It's time to let go of certain people in your life, although it can be tough to do so. It is healthy to remove what does not serve you anymore. This will make room for other things or people that could be a good influence in your life.

Taurus-Emotions are running high this week. Therefore, do what you can to help prevent any outbursts. Others' opinions may not sit well with you; however, don't let it get the best of you. Rise above any negativity by not letting it affect you, and be the bigger person.

Virgo-Although the month may be coming to an end, it is never too late to begin a new resolution. Time is in the palm of your hands, so take control. If you dislike something, make a change. There doesn't have to be a right time or place for things to begin happening.

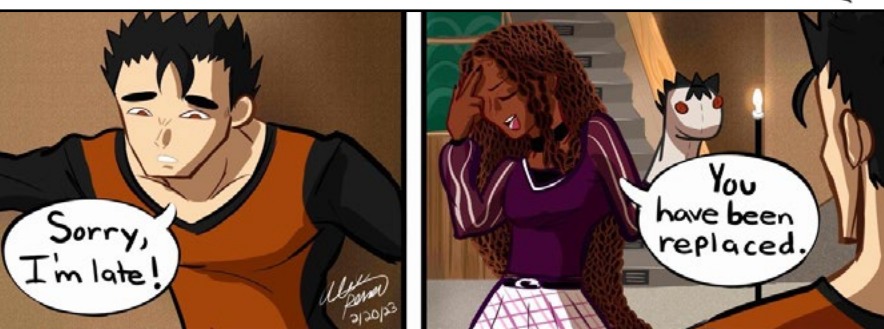
Capricorn-This week could be tough, but remind yourself that you've come this far, so giving up is not an option. Be proud of your growth and keep moving forward. Avoid going back into your shell because it will take you three steps back.



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Last week's puzzle answer key:

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Vaqueras at Islander Classic

Jose Medina

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Women's Golf Team will compete today and Tuesday in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Islander Classic.

The Vaqueras are coming off a third-place finish from their last competition at the Texas State University Invitational on Feb. 6 and 7 and have lost their only match play against the Islanders.

The team finished the 2022 Islander Classic in fourth place and set a new program record with a three-round score of 890.

Asked how the team has been preparing, head coach Bryan

Novoa said they are coming off a high from their last tournament at Texas State University.

"The only problem with that tournament was that, you know, we're just a little beat up," Novoa said. "Got a few injuries we're trying to manage and deal with, but, mentally, I mean, it's the same process, you know, just playing a lot of golf and working on scoring, short game and working on strategy for the golf course."

Graduate player Julie Lucio said she is doing better mentally and at staying in the present and not focusing too much on the future.

"I've been striking the ball really well," Lucio said. "My body has been doing a lot better since last year. My wrists have been really strong, so I'm excited. And I'm excited to close out the year because this is my last semester."

Senior player Samantha Garza said taking notes on the greens is a good way to prepare for the tournament.

"Physically, just work on some key swing things," Garza said. "And all good to go by this weekend when we leave."

Novoa said last year's

Islander Classic was in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park but has been moved back to the Corpus Christi Country Club this year.

"We're excited about it because the renovations are supposed to be phenomenal," he said. "They are beautiful greens. They redesigned a couple of holes. And man, I heard they did an amazing job and we can't wait to get on it."

Novoa said it will be difficult to beat Corpus Christi on their home course, because they play it often and are probably used to the renovations.

"We're a strong team and as talented as they are," he said. "So, we're gonna give them a run for their money at the end of the day."

Asked what his expectations for the team are, Novoa replied he does not like that word.

"I expect them to be disciplined with their strategy," he said. "Disciplined with their course management, disciplined with their golf swings and disciplined with their systems that are in place for them to succeed and score at the end of the day."

Lucio said they have a strong team and she is excited to finish the year with them.

"So, I'm pretty sure we can win the Islander Classic," she said. "And we can win our home tournament as well. Like, I'm excited to go to [the Western Athletic Conference] as well with them."

Asked how she thinks the tournament will go, Lucio replied that she wants to win, even though some of her teammates have injuries.

"Some have wrist problems and back problems," she said. "But we're gonna try to take the victory home because the Islanders, I mean, that's our biggest competitor."

Novoa said he is proud of the team and the work they have put in.

"I have great players on this team and they're starting to shine," he said. "You're gonna see more of them this spring with how we contend for tournament titles and how we approach, you know, preparing for the WAC and having the opportunity to, maybe, bring home a trophy."

Following the Islander Classic is the UTRGV Invitational, hosted March 6 and 7 at the McAllen Country Club.

Madi Ozuna, a sophomore member of the UTRGV Women's Golf Team, practices last Tuesday at the McAllen Country Club.

Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER



Daniela Rosenberger



Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

Sophomore Daniela Rosenberger is on the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team. Rosenberger is from St. Louis, Missouri, and attended Northern Kentucky University before transferring to UTRGV. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in graphic design.

Q: What kind of music do you like?

A: "I really like all kinds. I don't really have a certain artist. I recently just went to the Justin Bieber concert in Cincinnati, so I like Justin Bieber. My teammates have more of the Spanish culture, so I guess since I got here I started listening to more Spanish music."

Q: Who is one of your role models?

A: "My family. My mom played college tennis growing up. I was hoping to follow her lead with that, which I guess I am."

Q: Would you want to keep playing tennis or do something with graphic design?

A: "I really want to go into interior designing or some type of designing or film. I don't really want to stay with tennis. It's really tiring. So, yeah, I want to do something with design. I really like being creative. I don't like sitting at a desk all day."

Q: When did you begin playing tennis?

A: "When I was little, my mom's side grew up playing tennis, and they owned the club I played at. So, I was literally a baby walking on the courts with my mom. Yeah, I was holding a racket as a baby."

Q: Do you have a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I played soccer. I played club and in school. I played it also with tennis. So, I would have, like, soccer practice straight to tennis after until, like, 9 p.m. I played [the] ukulele. I performed at my cousin's wedding. I still kinda play alone."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Women's Basketball

6:30 P.M. Wednesday vs. Tarleton State University
4 P.M. Saturday vs. Sam Houston State University

Men's Basketball

6:30 P.M. Thursday vs. Utah Tech University
6:30 P.M. Saturday vs. Tarleton State University

At UTRGV Fieldhouse

Women's Tennis

9 A.M. Friday vs. Prairie View A&M University

Men's Tennis

Noon Friday vs. Prairie View A&M University

At Orville I. Cox Tennis Center

Another first-timer at the Sauce House on Feb. 11 was Vanessa Rizo, who described the concert as a way to let loose and have a great time.

“That’s the energy that they throw out there, just to let it f---ing go,” Rizo said. “I was expecting some sort of, like, official venue but this is, like, more organic. Like, the sprout of something that you can’t take away.”

With hundreds of people coming to the Sauce House for concerts, from newcomers to veterans of the house show scene, it wasn’t always like that for Zamora and Aguilar.

Inspired by attending house shows as teenagers, Zamora and Aguilar had ideas to start having their own shows.

“We had a band and we weren’t getting as many shows as we wanted to,” Zamora said. “So we were like, ‘Let’s try doing it ourselves.’ I had been previously to, like, a house show, our first house show ever, and I was like, ‘Damn, we could just do this in our house.’”

After a small turnout for the first show on Dec. 8, 2018, Zamora said they started to get serious about the DIY live music venue and created social media for it.

“Even back then, when nobody showed up, we were obviously discouraged, but we had, like, three more shows planned out already,” Zamora said. “So it was, like, ‘Let’s just keep going. Eventually, people are gonna catch on to what we’re doing.’ And it’s starting to seem that people have been catching on. So, it’s just, like, we’re thankful we didn’t give up after, like, a s---y show. Because it’s so f---ing easy to just be like, ‘I never want to do this again.’”

Zamora said he handles the logistics

of running the show, from managing the sound system and lights to making sure there is someone at the entrance, providing trash cans and handling the money.

The money made from shows is used to pay the bands, something that is uncommon in the scene. Zamora and Aguilar said the rest is used to invest in better sound equipment and lights for the Sauce House.

Zamora learned sound engineering to produce better quality sound for live shows, which created a big difference between the first and most recent Sauce House shows, Aguilar said.

Aguilar curates the show, from booking the bands and reaching out to artists to make show flyers to inviting vendors to participate.

Asked to describe the local house show scene before and after the initial years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Zamora replied there was an oversaturation of the scene with shows every week with too many bands.

“Very bluntly, there was a lot of s---y events happening,” he said. “And they were being put on by not the best people ... and then, now that it started back up, I’m noticing more promoters are paying bands and they’re just trying hard because ... if you just throw a show for whatever, you’re gonna end up hurting the local scene.”

Zamora added that every Sauce House show is not for profit and is put on for a purpose, such as bringing out-of-town bands to the community or giving rising local bands attention.

The purpose is to always keep the community in mind.

Asked how it feels that the Sauce House is one of the main DIY venues that is a part of the local house show culture, Zamora replied, “A little surreal because at the end of the day, it’s just, like, my mom’s house and ...

Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER
Floats vocalist and guitarist Mark Perez (right) twists and turns during his performance Feb. 11 at the Sauce House with bassist Daniel Garcia standing sturdy next to him. Floats was one of two San Antonio-based bands to perform that night.

I feel like it’s gotten to the point where we can brag a little bit.”

“And it’s not even, like, bragging to be like, ‘Oh, we’re doing cool s---,’” he said. “But, like, we put on a show and people loved every single band that played. People supported local vendors, especially on shows where people are supporting a really good cause. It feels very rewarding.”

Aguilar added that “it feels good.”
“To be able to, like, change people’s lives a little bit, to change the routine

that people go through on the daily,” he said. “To be able to provide an experience that’s good for the artists, for the community and to have a space where people can play good shows and experience good music is great.”

For information on the venue’s next concert, visit its Instagram page @saucehousetx.

“Everyone is welcomed to the Sauce House,” Aguilar said. “We do everything we can to make it a safe space for all ages.”



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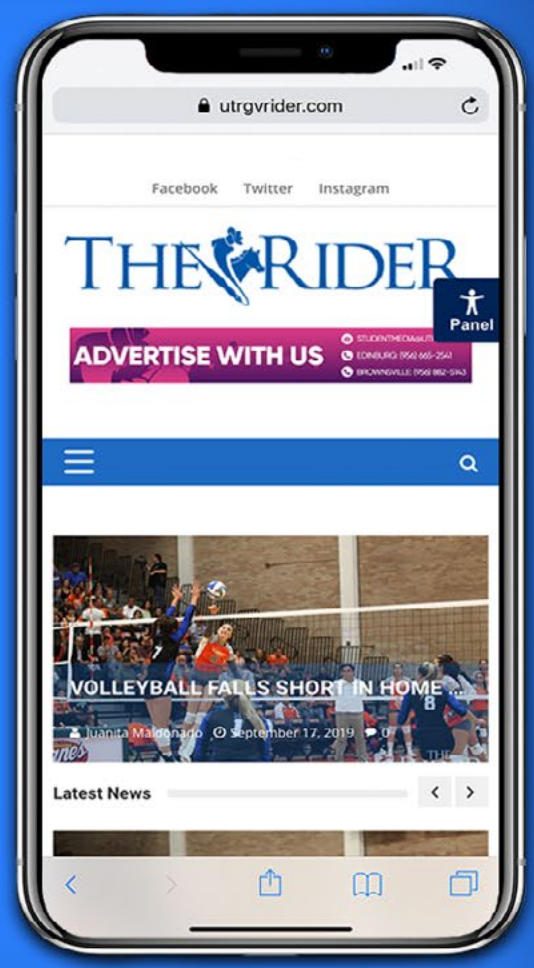
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