

**INSIDE:**  
 ECISD superintendent explains tax ratification election  
**Page 3**

**SPORTS:**  
 Vaqueros ready to bring in season  
**Page 7**



**A&E:**  
 Play comes to the stage in time for spooky season  
**Page 6**



## Police: Missing faculty member found

**Ali Halloum**

THE RIDER

An unidentified UTRGV faculty member who was reported missing on Oct. 11 has been found, according to the UTRGV Police Department.

The department's Criminal Investigations Division received a phone call on Oct. 11 informing them a faculty member was missing.

"[The call] came in through family members, and then it went

out to the dean and the provost," said UTRGV Assistant Chief of Police Van Slusser. "We were then informed of the situation from there."

According to University Police, the faculty member's disappearance had already been reported to the Weslaco Police Department. An investigation was opened, and it was being treated as a missing person's case.

The missing faculty member was later found, according to Slusser. UTRGV Police Department is not releasing the name of the faculty member at this time.

The Rider filed public information requests with the UTRGV Police Department and Weslaco Police Department Oct. 18 to obtain copies of the police report. The Rider will provide an update when the reports are released.

## Travel suspended amid Israel-Hamas war

**Ali Halloum**

THE RIDER

The University of Texas System, in a recently issued memorandum, has suspended all university-related travel to Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank until further notice. This is due to an escalating conflict and humanitarian crisis in the region.

In the same memorandum, the UT System also considered

# THREE-HOUR PHOTOSHOOT

**Natalie Lapsley**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Among others gathered under a darkening Texas sky Oct. 14 was UTRGV business junior Constantine Poulos, his Nikon DSLR camera, a 200-millimeter lens and a tripod.

Poulos traveled to Corpus Christi with his family to view his first annular solar eclipse, during which the sun, moon and Earth align, casting a shadow on the planet and hushing the birds.

Over the span of three hours, the astrophotographer took individual exposures of different stages of the eclipse and compiled them into a mosaic using Adobe Photoshop.

During the event, the moon is "far enough" from the Earth so that it "doesn't take up all of the sun, so it's not a total eclipse," Poulos told The Rider last Thursday.

"You still see a ring of the sun, which is why it's called the 'Ring of Fire,'" Poulos said. "... It's a rather rare event. It happens, I think, every few years in different parts of the world, but one happening in Texas is very rare."

While a total solar eclipse covers the sun completely,

See **ECLIPSE**, Page 3

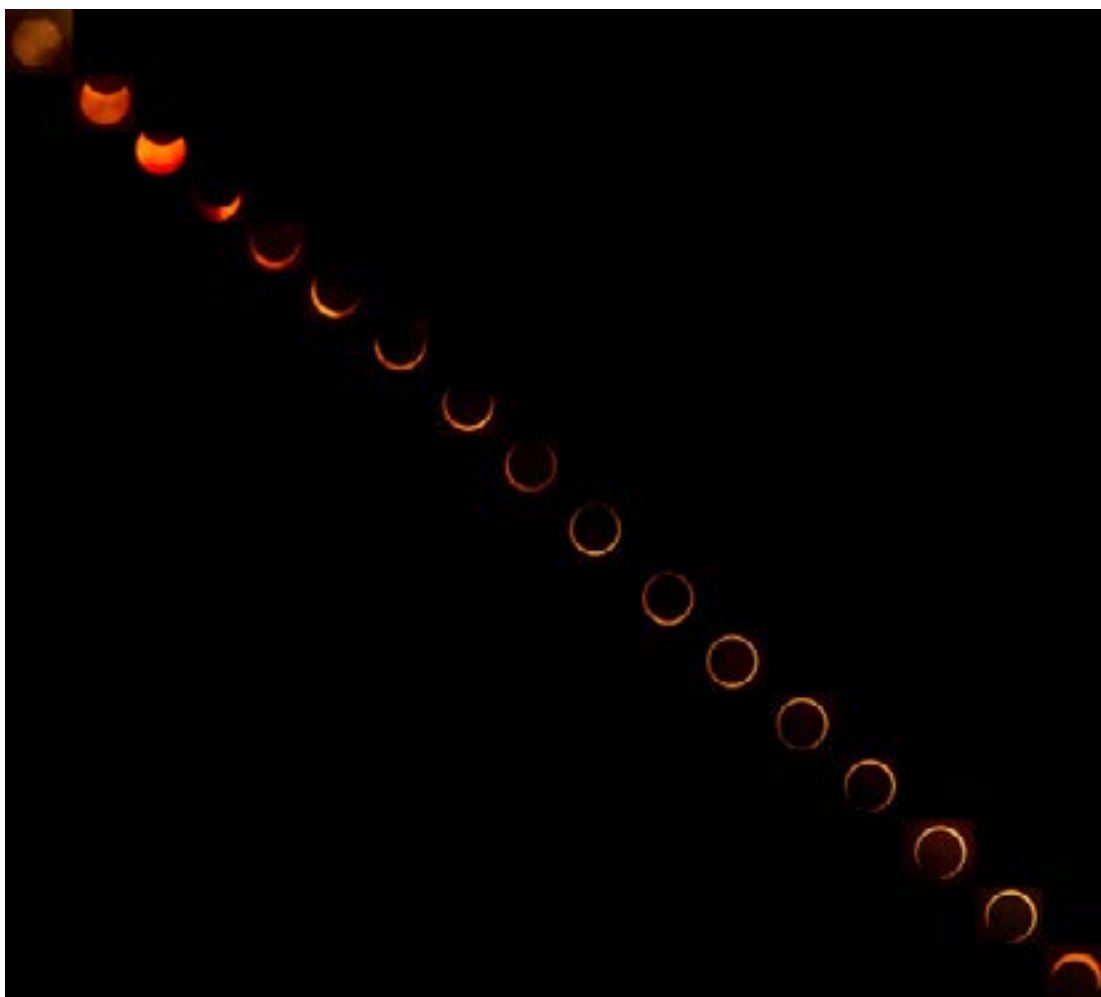


PHOTO COURTESY CONSTANTINE POULOS

Editor's note: This is the first of two articles on the Israel-Hamas war.

suspending travel to Jordan and Lebanon, with special approval being required for any university travel to those countries.

The decision was made after careful consideration by the UT System and by the International Oversight Committee, a UT System-affiliated department that oversees international travel made on behalf of UTRGV.

Edith Galy, an associate professor of international business and entrepreneurship and chair of the IOC, explained the committee's decision to suspend travel to Israel, Gaza  
 See **TRAVEL**, Page 8

# Early voting starts today

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**

SPANISH EDITOR

Early voting for the Nov. 7 election on 14 proposed Texas constitutional amendments, including a retirement age increase for judges and the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, starts today and continues through Nov. 3.

The UTRGV Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus is one of the 29 early voting locations in Hidalgo County.

The Cameron County Judicial Complex, located at 954 E. Harrison St. in Brownsville, is one of the 16 polling locations in the county.

UTRGV experts explained what some of the proposed constitutional amendments mean and their importance.

Mark Kaswan, a political science professor, said Proposition 1 would establish a right for people who own a ranch. "People who own in rural areas,

who own ranch land, basically, farmers, ranchers, people who are on land for the purpose of wildlife management, things like that," Kaswan said. "Which is kind of funny, like, why do we have to establish a right for that. And the explanation that's given is that Texas is growing. And the cities in Texas are growing."

He said a concern raised by Proposition 1 is that it "would actually empower large-scale industrial farming and it might make it more difficult to enact regulations that are meant to protect small family farms."

Andrew Smith, a political science assistant professor and pre-law adviser, said Proposition 2 would benefit working parents.

"Proposition 2 allows local governments to exempt child-care facilities from property taxes," Smith said. "The logic behind this is that it will make it easier for one, new child-

See **VOTE**, Page 3

### What's on the ballot?

Prop. 1: Protect farming rights

**VOTE**

Prop. 2: Authorize Texas Legislature to exempt child-care facilities from property taxes

Prop. 14: Authorize Centennials Park Fund

Prop. 13: Increase mandatory age of retirement for state judges and justices.

Source: Texas Secretary of State

Estefania Ramirez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

## 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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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today**  
**Boxing Workout**  
**University Recreation** will host a **group training workout** that sculpts the body and burns calories while practicing boxing from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. today and Wednesday in University Recreation Center Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

**Boot Camp**  
**University Recreation** will host a **boot camp-style exercise** from 5 to 5:45 p.m. today and Wednesday in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. All fitness levels are welcome. The event will also take place from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in the same location.

**Tuesday**  
**Farmers Market At UTRGV**  
**The Environmental Awareness Club** will host a **farmers market** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Chapel lawn on the Edinburg campus. Students and staff will have a chance to interact with club members and learn more about the farm. **Food will be provided.**

**Free Coffee**  
**The Center for Student Involvement** will serve **free coffee** from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Student

Union on the Brownsville campus. Students must bring their ID.

**German Club**  
The **RGV German Club** members will **meet** from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.502 on the Brownsville campus.

**Wednesday**  
**Free Lunch**  
The **Catholic Student Association** will provide **free lunch** to UTRGV students, faculty and staff from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Newman Student Catholic Center on the Edinburg campus.

This event will take place every Wednesday until the end of the semester.

**Environmental Awareness**  
The **Environmental Awareness Club** will meet from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.418 on the Edinburg campus to discuss **fundraisers, field trips and symposiums.**

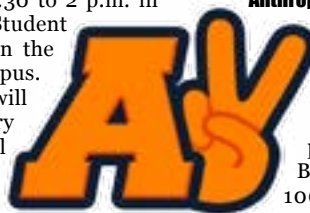
**Filipino Student Association**  
The **Filipino Student Association** will meet to discuss club activities from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

in Student Academic Center Room 1.102 on the Edinburg campus. **Food will be provided.**

**Pre-Dental Society Meeting**  
The **Pre-Dental Society** will host a **meeting** to inform about volunteer opportunities, dental school panels and to discuss dental problems from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West Room 2.212 on the Edinburg campus. **Food will be provided.**

**Anthropology Club Meetings**  
All majors are welcome to attend the **Anthropology Club** meeting from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 106 on the Edinburg campus. Students will learn about linguistics, medicine, biology, evolution and archaeology.

**Thursday**  
**Free Lunch**  
The **Baptist Student Ministry Brownsville** will serve a **free lunch** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Main Building Room 1.003 (Patio Plumeria) on the Brownsville campus.



# POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 10 and 16.*

**Oct. 10**  
**1:38 p.m.:** A student on the Edinburg campus reported being assaulted at an off-campus location. The student had already filed an offense report with the local police department.

**3:44 p.m.:** A resident assistant reported finding a vaping pen while performing a health and safety check in Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus. The contents of the vaping pen tested positive for THC. The case is under investigation.

**Oct. 11**  
**2:17 p.m.:** A student on the Edinburg campus reported sending sexually explicit photos of himself to who he thought was an adult woman on social media. The woman threatened to release the photos online if the student did not cooperate and send her more photos. The student immediately blocked the woman. The case is under investigation.

**4:32 p.m.:** An officer on the Brownsville campus was advised of a web-form report received by dispatch regarding a sexual assault. The report was received anonymously and no information on the reporting party, victim, suspect or location was provided.

**5:12 p.m.:** An employee reported receiving a call from a woman claiming to be from Customs and Border Protection. The woman advised him that he was being investigated for a suspicious package delivered to his home. The employee became suspicious when the woman asked him for his bank account information, which he did not provide to her. The case is under investigation.

**7:30 p.m.:** The UTRGV Criminal Investigations Division received a call regarding a missing faculty member. Officers determined that the Weslaco Police Department was already investigating a missing person. CID found information about the faculty member and attempted to locate him to no avail. The investigation is ongoing.

**8:02 p.m.:** An officer located an elderly man who appeared

to be disoriented at the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. University Police determined the man was a Mexican national trying to get back home to Mexico. The Mexican Consulate and Adult Protective Services were contacted. The man was released to the care of Adult Protective Services while the Mexican Consulate worked on contacting his family members.

**Oct. 12**  
**12:57 p.m.:** A student reported a sexual assault that occurred off campus in Weslaco. The offense report had already been filed with the Weslaco Police Department. The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity was notified.

**1:29 p.m.:** A resident assistant reported locating a vaping pen while performing a health and safety check at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus.

The contents of the vaping pen tested positive for THC. The case is under investigation.

**2:09 p.m.:** A Parking and Transportation employee reported a student who had a fraudulent parking permit on the Edinburg campus. The case is under review.

**5:07 p.m.:** A student reported some concerns with how the resident assistants are conducting their health and safety inspections in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. The student's concerns were addressed.

**Oct. 13**  
**8:18 a.m.:** University Police responded to an auto-pedestrian traffic collision where a student was hit by a vehicle while attempting to cross the crosswalk at 500 W. Van Week St. in Edinburg. The student was transported to Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for minor injuries.

**9:09 a.m.:** A student reported that a package, which had been delivered to her address, was stolen from the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**Noon:** An officer on the

Brownsville campus observed an employee choking on a piece of food while having lunch off campus. The officer performed the Heimlich maneuver on the employee and was able to dislodge the item from the employee's windpipe. The employee reported no injury.

**1:59 p.m.:** A Transportation and Parking employee reported the theft of a wheel lock that was placed on a vehicle for no registration in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**2:14 p.m.:** An employee reported the theft of several items from her office and the common areas at the Marialice Shary Shivers building on the Edinburg campus over several weeks. The case is under investigation.

**3:57 p.m.:** An employee reported observing a student close the glass sliding door to the third-floor balcony at Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus. The area is not supposed to be accessible to students. An officer checked the area and secured the door.

**4:12 p.m.:** A student reported she was struck by a vehicle at 100 N. Sugar Road on the night of Oct. 12. The case was reported to the Edinburg Police Department, which generated an auto-pedestrian accident report.

**8:07 p.m.:** An officer found a broken water drainage pipe in Lot E-10 on the Edinburg campus. The officer closed off the area and submitted a work order for immediate repairs.

**11:14 p.m.:** A UTRGV police officer assisted U.S. Border Patrol agents in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus in the search of two men who crossed the border fence. The individuals were not located.

**Oct. 14**  
**1:18 p.m.:** An officer noticed a water leak from the electrical room door at the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. University Police contacted Facilities and Environmental Health and Safety, and an employee was sent to fix the leak.

**Psychology Club**  
**Psychology Club** members will **meet** from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 2.130 on the Edinburg campus.

**UREC Barbell**  
**University Recreation** will host **barbell classes** that incorporate functional strength training from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

**German Classes**  
The **RGV German Club** will offer **German lessons** from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in Main Building Room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus.

**Friday**  
**Cycle Fit**  
**University Recreation** will give **cycle classes** that cover the foundational yoga postures practiced to align, strengthen and promote flexibility in the body from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center Upper Fitness Floor in Brownsville.

--Compiled by Alfredo Garcia

**3:18 p.m.:** An officer contacted several students at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus who reported that an unknown subject slipped a note under their dorm doors. At this time, it is determined no crime occurred. The case is under review.

**Oct. 15**  
**8:53 p.m.:** An officer responded to a suspicious man who was attempting to open the apartment doors in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The officer checked the area but was unable to locate the subject. University Police determined no crime occurred. The case is under review.

**Oct. 16**  
**2:36 p.m.:** Officers responded to a fire alarm that was activated by a faulty smoke detector in Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department and Environmental Health and Safety deemed the building safe for reentry.

**3:24 p.m.:** An officer responded to a non-affiliated woman who was experiencing chest pains in the UT Health RGV Multispecialty clinic in Harlingen. The woman requested emergency medical services, and was transported to a hospital for further evaluation.

**4:43 p.m.:** A male student resident reported that a female student resident was possibly attempting to draw his attention while at the Casa Bella apartments on the Brownsville campus. The male student reported the incident because the female student had harassed him in the past. The case is under review.

**11:44 p.m.:** An officer observed a non-affiliated man who had been issued an active criminal trespass warning inside the Mathematics and General Classrooms building on the Edinburg campus. The officer contacted the man and determined that the subject was having a medical emergency. The man declined emergency medical services and later left the area with his mother. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas

Edinburg City Council

# ECISD superintendent explains tax ratification election

**Eduardo Escamilla**  
THE RIDER

The Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District has presented to the Edinburg City Council a proposal for a Voter Approved Tax Ratification to enhance educational resources.

"We have an item on the Nov. 7 election and we wanted to give you a briefing on what that item entails," ECISD Superintendent Mario Salinas said during the public comment section of last Tuesday's council meeting.

According to the ECISD website, if voters approve the tax ratification:

- property taxes will decrease for ECISD taxpayers in the 2023-2024 school year
- the Voter-Approval Tax Ratification Election will allow the ECISD to keep 3 cents of the reduced property taxes
- the proposed 3 cents will total \$6.7 million in annual funding to the district (\$3.22 million in local taxes and \$3.49 million in state aid).

Salinas presented statistics to councilmembers, making his case why the tax ratification should pass.

"We have 4,700 full-time employees, our budget is over \$400 million a year, we have the highest-paid teachers in the [Rio Grande] Valley, and we have over 34,000 students attending our schools," he said.

Adel Felix, ECISD assistant superintendent for Finance & Operations, provided information to councilmembers regarding the VATRE.

"Edinburg CISD property tax rate will be decreasing by 21.71 cents," Felix said. "And we are asking for three of those pennies through a voter approval tax ratification election."

Currently, the tax rate for ECISD is \$1.06 for every \$100 valuation. And



Ryan Lugo/THE RIDER

South Texas International Film Festival Director of Operation Magdiel Castle (left) and Festival Director Letty Leija showcase awards the organization won recently and inform the public about Los Muertos Bailan: A Celebration of the Day of the Dead event that was scheduled last Saturday.

the proposed tax rate is 0.8750 cents, including the effects of the VATRE, a decrease of .1854 cents, according to Felix.

"Three pennies will generate approximately \$6.7 million to ECISD, 3.3% of that would come through tax collection and 3.5% from sustained school funding," she said.

The funds would be allocated toward enhancing security on ECISD campuses and for employee compensation, according to Felix.

The proposed tax ratification will also continue to provide student laptops and iPads for instructional needs, according to the school district's website.

Felix told councilmembers and

residents they could access more information about the tax ratification on the ECISD website.

During the public comment section of the meeting, residents of Shalom Drive voiced their continuing concern over a lack of drainage in their community.

"I pay close to \$6,000 in taxes every year," said resident Joe Guerra.

"Just a friendly reminder that we're there and we need that sewer line," Guerra said. "... Having a bag of toilet tissues next to your toilet ... that's, like, a health issue. But we need to do that because the septic tanks clog, and they charge a pretty penny to unclog it."

In a presentation on public utility infrastructure that followed public

comment, Tomas D. Reyna, assistant city manager, told councilmembers, "We are proposing an 8-inch sewer line to connect all the way to Alberta Road and to extend services to the [Shalom] residents."

"Right now, for the sewer line, the manhole and the paving, we're looking at a total of \$358,000, and we have already begun the procurement process," Reyna said.

Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr. asked Reyna how long it would take before residents at Shalom Drive would have access to the sewer line.

"I would say it will be a seven-to-eight-month process," Reyna replied.

Shalom Drive residents will be contacted by the City of Edinburg once the project is completed, after which residents will be required to hire a plumber to connect them to the sewer line, according to Reyna.

"We'd like to let our community know that we do hear you," Place 1 City Councilmember Daniel "Dan" Diaz told the residents. "This has been something we've been working on, [but] it's hard to give false hope till we figure it out, so all the time you've come here and spoken to this group, we've heard you".

In other city news, Assistant Director of Cultural Arts Magdiel Castle announced the department's achievement of receiving seven Pinnacle awards at the International Festival and Events Association: gold for best single digital ad and bronze for best promotional poster, both for the Frida Fest; silver for best overall entertainment program and bronze for the best T-shirt design, both for the Los Muertos Bailan; gold for best promotional poster and T-shirt design and silver for best printed material multiple page, all for the South Texas International Film Festival.

## ECLIPSE

Continued from Page 1

resulting in even darker skies, an annular eclipse is when the moon only takes up 90% of the sun, according to Juan Madrid, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UTRGV.

Poulos said he became interested in astrophotography after taking Madrid's Introduction to Astronomy I class.

Madrid said viewing a solar eclipse with the naked eye can cause blindness and recommends using special solar eclipse glasses.

"The issue is that your eyes are going to act as that magnifying glass and you're going to end up burning your eyes or your retinas if you look at the sun for too long," he said while putting on a pair of the protective glasses.

Poulos said the next event is a total solar eclipse on April 8.

"Luckily, [the best place to view it] is in Texas, but it's all the way up in the Fredericksburg-Kerrville area," he said, adding that he intends to attend the event to take more photos.

Madrid said the April solar eclipse will take place in the middle of the day and result in total darkness. He explained that a few centuries ago, before the ability to predict solar eclipses, "people would completely panic."

However, he said there were civilizations that could "predict eclipses with great accuracy," including the Mayans, who knew how to predict eclipses centuries in advance.

"There are some states in the country that have not seen a solar eclipse in over 100 years," Madrid said. "We're a little bit lucky here in South Texas because we got this eclipse ... and we are also going to have the total solar eclipse next April, which is going to be spectacular. So, this was like an appetizer for us."

Poulos encourages people to view a solar eclipse at least once.

"It's a beautiful experience," he said. "Everyone should experience it."



## VOTE

Continued from Page 1

care facilities to emerge, and two, perhaps lower the cost of enrolling children in these facilities, which helps working parents out a lot."

Proposition 10 would authorize the Texas Legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products.

"So in the case of Prop 10, what it does is it exempts equipment and inventory in the biomedical industry from property taxes," Kaswan said. "Most biomedical products in the state are imported, so there's very little biomedical industry in the state. And, so, it's a way of helping to promote, you know, that industry."

Proposition 11 would apply only to El Paso County.

"It allows El Paso County to issue property tax-funded municipal bonds to pay for building and maintaining public parks and recreational areas," Smith said. "So even though this is something confined to El Paso, this would only affect El Paso County."

He said Proposition 11 would expand the number of recreational areas in El Paso, which would improve quality of life, health, environment and make the city a more attractive place to move to.

Kaswan said Proposition 12 would affect only Galveston County.

It would allow the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.

"For some reason Galveston County wants to get rid of their county treasurer," Kaswan said. "They say that the things that a county treasurer does are being fulfilled, you know, are spread out among different offices. I guess, in that county, they had a vote, and the people of Galveston County said they wanted to get rid of the office."

Proposition 13 would increase the mandatory retirement age for

judges in Texas.

"All Texas judges must retire at the age of 75," Smith said. "This constitutional amendment would raise that age to 79. It would also raise the minimum retirement age from 70 to 75."

He said if passed, the proposition would affect incumbent Republican judges.

"Raising the retirement age will make it easier for Republicans to maintain an absolute control over all branches of the Texas judiciary since many of the judges that would be affected by this change are incumbent Republicans," Smith said.

Proposition 14 would allow the creation of the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.

Kaswan said it would provide a steady revenue stream for the State Parks and Wildlife program.

"One of the things is that it creates what's called a trust fund," he said. "I mean, that's basically it. So, people have noted that Texas has a lower acreage of parks than most other states. ... So, you know, as the population grows, more people want to use the parks, and parks need more money to operate. So, this creates a dedicated fund to support that."

Several cities and school districts will also conduct elections for board of trustees and municipal posts and bond issues, including Edinburg, where two councilmember seats are up for election. Incumbent Johnny Garcia is being challenged by David Salazar for the Place 3 position. Gerardo "Gerry" Lozano is challenging incumbent David White for the Place 4 seat.

Smith encourages students to vote. "I think students need to understand that elections are the way for them to get their voices heard," he said. "It's a cliché for a reason. Millennials and, especially, Gen Zers participate at high levels in politics, but they don't do the one thing that ultimately approves

most policy changes and that's vote. So, constitutional amendments and local elections are two very important ways that students can go out and make their voice heard in democracy."

Early voting sites in Hidalgo County are open from:

- 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today through Saturday
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
- 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 30-Nov. 3

To view the 29 Hidalgo County voting sites, visit its website.

Early voting sites in Cameron County are open from:

- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today through Friday
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 30-Nov. 1
- 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 2 and 3

To view the Cameron County voting sites, visit its website.

There are seven acceptable forms of photo ID to present at the polling location: a Texas driver's license, Texas ID, Texas election ID certificate, Texas handgun license, U.S. citizenship certificate with photo, U.S. military ID card with photo and U.S. passport.

For more information on the amendments and voting on Texas, visit [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov).

# EARLY VOTING STARTS TODAY



# A movie after 3,205 nights at Freddy's



**Christina Vasquez**

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

After having waited over a decade, we are finally getting the movie a lot of us “Five Nights at Freddy’s” franchise fans have been waiting for.

Having been teased for such a long time, the first trailer resulted in a huge wave of excitement from the large fandom when it came out June 27. Of course, as it is clear

fans are growing impatient for the long-anticipated film, there are those who are afraid of the end result when it comes to the film’s quality.

In the aspect of making the movie as precise as possible to the actual games, it’s already looking promising in terms of the characters and visuals. Having already been shown a glimpse of the 1-hour-and-50-minute film,

we can see the careful and amazing craftsmanship of the animatronics made by Jim Henson, legendary Creature Shop founder.

Looking at the trailers, the set and wardrobe of characters, such as “Mike Schmidt,” “Abby Schmidt” and “Vanessa Monroe,” appears to already be giving the ‘80s vibe.

Overall, the trailer has already gained a grand stamp of approval from fans, such as myself, who have been following the franchise ever since the first “Five Nights at

the fan base and have been passed down as important information for new watchers and gamers.

Despite this being a prominent part of enjoying the games, viewers, including myself, became puzzled over hearing the character name “Abby Schmidt.”

“Abby Schmidt” is usually known as “Elizabeth Afton.” Details such as this are one of the reasons why fans are afraid of how the film will play out.

Though there is an aura of fear currently present as the movie inches closer and closer, the production team continues to reassure fans.

Jason Blum, founder and CEO of Blumhouse Productions, in a recent interview explained the movie is being made for the fans, not to gain new viewers.

Blum said Scott Cawthon, creator of “Five Nights at Freddy’s,” recognizes the franchise wouldn’t be possible without the support of everyone who loves the horror games. Despite the various opinions, we will have to wait and see when the movie officially comes out this Friday.

Although the visuals look aesthetically pleasing, there is somewhat of a mutual agreement about confusion toward the storyline, otherwise known as “the lore.”

Freddy’s” game was released in 2014.

Although the visuals look aesthetically pleasing, there is somewhat of a mutual agreement about confusion toward the storyline, otherwise known as “the lore.”

Though the character names and story have never been confirmed, there’s been incredibly popular known theories that have stuck onto



## What’s your most prized possession?



“My most treasured possession would probably be a box I have in my room that was decorated for, like, some project ... in high school, but all of my friends made like an art on the outside, and inside I keep all the letters and gifts my friends and family give me over the years.”

**Andrea Mendez**  
undeclared freshman



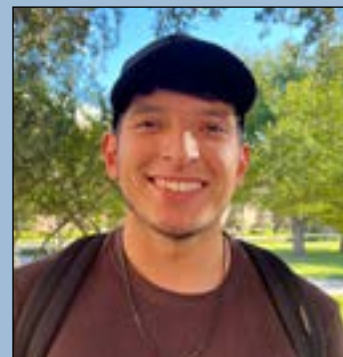
“It would be a guitar that was gifted to me by my dad. It was gifted when I was a kid, so like I’ve always treasured it. It’s broken now, but like I’ve never given it away ‘cause, like, I thought it was the most amazing thing for me when I was a kid ‘cause I really love playing guitar.”

**Amparo Guzman**  
integrated health science freshman



“I’d say it’s a photo strip of my friends and I when we were back in high school.”

**Japeth Gonzalez**  
marketing freshman



“It would probably have to be a bear that my mom has of me. It’s a small little bear with a picture of me and my mom, and it just means a lot ‘cause it’s from whenever I was younger and whenever my dad was still around. So, you know, it means a lot to me.”

**Derek Rodriguez**  
finance freshman

--Compiled and photos by Aura Velasquez and Daniela Martinez Salazar

**WACKY WEB POLL**  
WOULD YOU RATHER WATCH A MOVIE BASED OFF A VIDEO GAME OR PLAY THE ORIGINAL VIDEO GAME?

WATCH THE MOVIE	PLAY THE VIDEO GAME
88%	12%

Visit us online at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com) to participate →

Tag us on social media for a chance to have your opinion printed. @utrgvrider

The Rider does not guarantee publication.



Nombre: Almi Cabanzo  
Carrera: Antropología  
Clasificación: Estudiante de último año  
Fecha de graduación: Otoño 2023



Ryan Lugo / THE RIDER

Ciudad natal: Bogotá, Colombia  
Actividades extracurriculares: "Soy parte del Club de Antropología y también trabajé en el Centro de Visitantes. Soy parte del V Squad, entonces soy guía turística en la escuela".

**¿Cuáles son las diferencias entre tu ciudad natal y los Estados Unidos?**

"Creo que, principalmente, sería el clima. De donde soy, siempre hace frío. Estamos en las montañas. Entonces, venir aquí fue un gran ajuste que tuve que hacer, donde hace calor y humedad 24/7 la mayor parte del año. Eso fue un ajuste. Pienso, también, en la cultura en general. No esperaba que fuera una mezcla así entre las culturas estadounidense y mexicana".

**¿Quién es tu ejemplo a seguir?**

"Yo diría que son mis padres. Siempre me muestran cómo trabajar duro puede llevarte a muchos lugares. No solo trabajar duro, sino que te encante lo que haces y verás grandes resultados y vivirás una vida satisfactoria. Creo que me mostraron cómo el amor y la perseverancia pueden hacer que las cosas sucedan. Y me gusta que nos hayan apoyado a mí y a mi hermana porque ella también viajó aquí a los EE.UU. Así que, ellos todavía están en mi ciudad natal en Bogotá y nos apoyaron cuando vinimos aquí. Y es como una transición en la que no sabemos las cosas. Estar separados también es muy difícil. Así que, estoy muy agradecida de tener su apoyo y de que siempre hayan estado ahí. Siempre están ahí para inspirarme para ser mejor y para no tener miedo de soñar".

**¿Por qué elegiste la carrera en la que estás?**

"Elegí especializarme en antropología porque siempre me ha fascinado por qué las cosas eran y por qué la gente pensaba de la manera en que lo hacía. [...] Estaba fascinada por que eran las cosas como eran, especialmente cuando están relacionadas con la gente. Y creo que es muy importante porque nos ayuda a entender no sólo cómo estamos unidos, sino también cómo somos diferentes y cómo se pueden resolver diferentes problemas. Creo que tiene mucho que ver con la comprensión humana. Y sí, sólo quería aprender más sobre lo que es ser humano, supongo que, en esencia".

**¿Qué hay en tu lista de deseos?**

"Realmente quiero viajar más. Siento que realmente quiero viajar a todas partes, especialmente a Asia y África. Realmente solo quiero ir ahí. Mi objetivo en el futuro es [...] convertirme en antropóloga forense. Así que, estaría haciendo una investigación de identificación humana. Solo quiero ayudar a la gente con eso, especialmente a las familias que han perdido a sus seres queridos por violaciones de los derechos humanos. Eso es algo que realmente me apasiona. Mi último deseo en la lista sería poder ser [antropóloga forense] y ayudar a las familias de todo el mundo a viajar".

**¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales?**

"Yo diría que no tengas miedo a hacer las cosas por tu cuenta. Como estudiantes internacionales, entendemos lo difícil que puede ser venir aquí. Así que, creo que es importante entender que puedes sentirte solo al principio. Pero si tratas de salir y conocer gente, no te sentirás tan solo. Así que, creo que ese sería mi consejo".

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

# La votación temprana comienza hoy

**Nota del editor:** The Rider pidió a los profesores de ciencias políticas de UTRGV que explicaran el significado de las enmiendas constitucionales propuestas. Este es el segundo de dos artículos.

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La votación temprana para las elecciones del 7 de noviembre sobre 14 enmiendas constitucionales propuestas en Texas, incluido un aumento de la edad de jubilación para los jueces y el Fondo de Conservación de Parques Centenarios, comienza hoy y continúa hasta el 3 de noviembre.

El Centro Académico para Estudiantes de UTRGV en el campus de Edinburg es uno de los 29 lugares de votación anticipada en el condado de Hidalgo.

El Complejo Judicial del Condado de Cameron, ubicado en 954 E. Harrison St. en Brownsville, es uno de los 16 lugares de votación del condado.

Expertos de UTRGV explicaron qué significan algunas de las enmiendas constitucionales propuestas y su importancia.

Mark Kaswan, profesor de ciencias políticas, dijo que la Propuesta 1 establecería un derecho para las personas propietarias de un rancho.

"Las personas que poseen tierras en áreas rurales, que poseen tierras de rancho, básicamente, agricultores, ganaderos, personas que están en tierras con el fin de gestionar la vida silvestre, cosas así", dijo Kaswan. "Lo cual es un poco gracioso, por qué tenemos que establecer un derecho para eso. Y la explicación que se da es que Texas está creciendo. Y las ciudades de Texas están creciendo".

Dijo que una preocupación planteada por la Proposición 1 es que "en realidad potenciaría la agricultura industrial a gran escala y podría dificultar la promulgación de regulaciones destinadas a proteger las pequeñas granjas familiares".

Andrew Smith, profesor asistente de ciencias políticas y asesor universitario en derecho, dijo que la Propuesta 2 beneficiaría a los padres que trabajan.

"La Propuesta 2 permite a los gobiernos locales eximir a las guarderías de los impuestos a la propiedad", dijo Smith. "La lógica detrás de esto es que, por un lado, será más fácil que surjan nuevas guarderías

y, por otro, tal vez se reduzca el costo de inscribir a los niños en estas instalaciones, lo que ayuda mucho a los padres que trabajan".

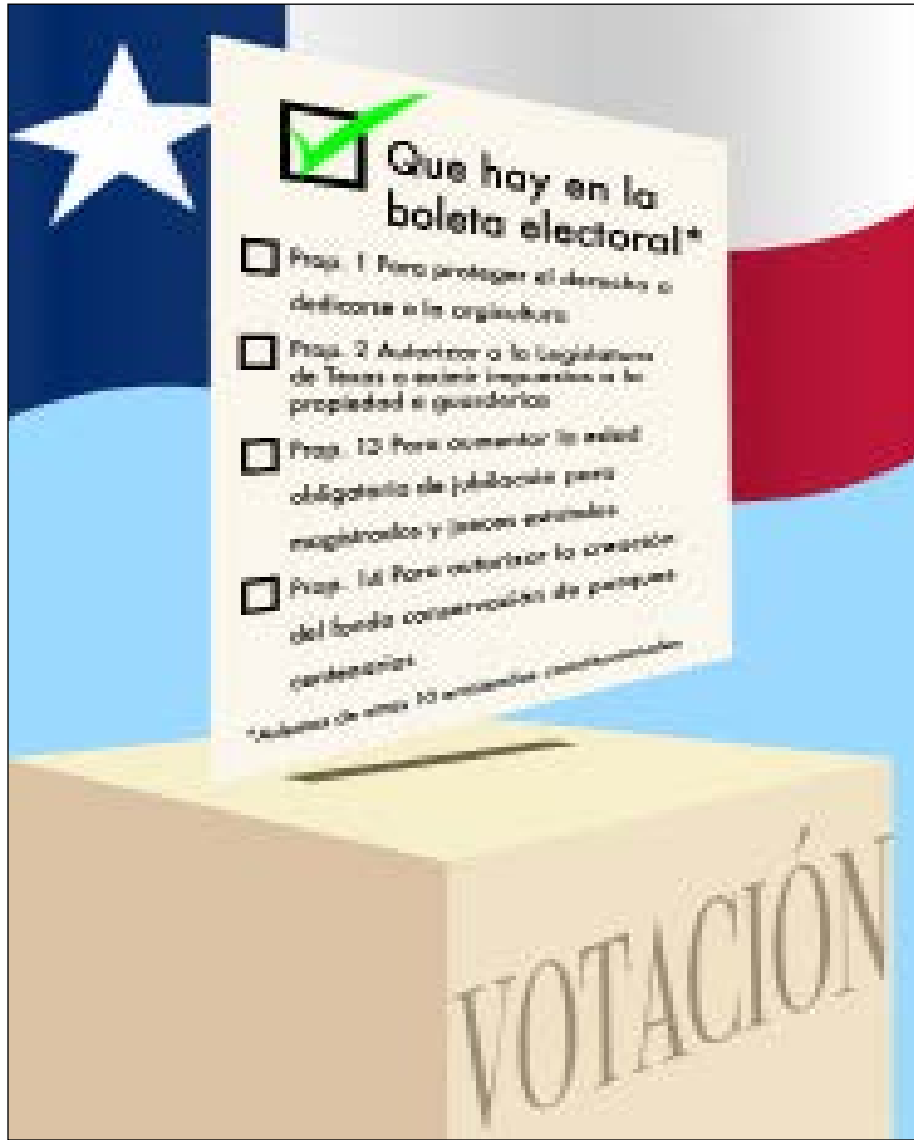
La Proposición 10 autorizaría a la Legislatura de Texas a eximir de impuestos ad valorem el equipo o el inventario en poder de un fabricante de productos médicos o biomédicos.

"Entonces, en el caso de la Proposición 10, lo que hace es eximir de impuestos a la propiedad a los equipos e inventarios en la industria biomédica", dijo Kaswan. "La mayoría de los productos biomédicos del estado son importados, por lo que hay muy poca industria biomédica en el estado. Y, entonces, es una forma de ayudar a promover, ya sabes, esa industria".

La Propuesta 11 se aplicaría sólo al condado de El Paso.

"Permite al condado de El Paso emitir bonos municipales financiados con impuestos a la propiedad para pagar la construcción y el mantenimiento de parques públicos y áreas recreativas", dijo Smith. "Entonces, aunque esto es algo limitado a El Paso, solo afectaría al condado de El Paso".

Dijo que la Propuesta 11 ampliaría la cantidad de áreas recreativas en El Paso, lo que mejoraría la calidad de vida, la salud, el medio ambiente



Fuente: El Secretario de Estado

Estefania Ramirez/GRÁFICA THE RIDER

y haría de la ciudad un lugar más atractivo para mudarse.

Kaswan dijo que la Propuesta 12 afectaría únicamente al condado de Galveston.

Permitiría la abolición del cargo de tesorero del condado en el condado de Galveston.

"Por alguna razón, el condado de Galveston quiere deshacerse

de su tesorero del condado", dijo Kaswan. "Dicen que las cosas que hace un tesorero del condado se están cumpliendo, ya sabes, están repartidas entre diferentes cargos. Supongo que en ese condado tuvieron una votación y la gente del condado de Galveston dijo que querían deshacerse del cargo".

La Proposición 13 aumentaría la edad de jubilación obligatoria para los jueces en Texas.

"Todos los jueces de Texas deben jubilarse a la edad de 75 años", dijo Smith. "Esta enmienda constitucional elevaría esa edad a 79 años. También elevaría la edad mínima de jubilación de 70 a 75 años".

Dijo que, si se aprueba, la propuesta afectaría a los jueces republicanos en ejercicio.

"El aumento de la edad de jubilación facilitará que los republicanos mantengan un control absoluto sobre todas las ramas del poder judicial de Texas, ya que muchos de los jueces que se verían afectados por este cambio son republicanos titulares", dijo Smith.

Smith anima a los estudiantes a votar.

"Creo que los estudiantes deben comprender que las elecciones son la manera de hacer oír su voz", dijo. "Es un cliché por una razón. Los millennials y, especialmente, la generación Z participan en altos niveles en la política, pero no hacen

Vea VOTAR, Página 8

## Elección de Enmienda Constitucional de Texas

# Play comes to the stage in time for spooky season

**Silvana Villarreal**

A&E REPORTER

“It watches,” he added suddenly. “The house. It watches every move you make.”

This quote, from Shirley Jackson’s 1959 book “The Haunting of Hill House,” embodies the feeling the UTRGV Theatre Department hopes to bring to the stage during its production of the paranormal story.

Reputation precedes Hill House for countless tragedies and its haunted nature.

“Silence lay steadily against the wood and stone of Hill House, and whatever walked there, walked alone,” the book reads.

The story follows a paranormal researcher who is trying to conduct an investigation into the supernatural occurrences of the house, all while one character begins to be influenced by the house, which ends with tragic results.

The mental state of the main character, Eleanor Vance, who is invited to Hill House by Dr. John Montague, the paranormal researcher, deteriorates throughout the plot and it becomes increasingly unclear to the audience whether the haunting is caused by external forces or Vance’s own psychological distress.

Brian Warren, director of the production and a professor in the Department of Theatre, said in the slow-burning plot, the tension builds until the spine-chilling climax.

“We see through Eleanor, she’s the main character, we see through her eyes what she is seeing,” Warren said.

He said young people who are unsure of the path they are taking might be able to relate to the main character.

“This entity grabs hold of that [vulnerability],” Warren said. “The entity inside the house, which we’re, kind of, not sure what that is.”

The cast includes Ashley Cantu as Eleanor Vance, Thomas Pearson as Dr. Montague, Emily Lopez as Mrs. Dudley, Chelsea Martinez as Theodora, Scot Johnson as Luke Sanderson, Gina Rodriguez as Mrs. Montague, Justin Vasquez as Arthur Parker, Amparo Villanueva as Crain



Ryan Lugo/THE RIDER

Philosophy Associate Professor Thomas Pearson (from left), theatre performance and criminal justice sophomore Chelsea Martinez, theatre performance senior Scot Johnson and theatre performance sophomore Ashley Cantu rehearse last Tuesday night at the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

Child and Mateo Ramirez as the nun.

Miguel Salazar, scenic and lighting designer and an associate professor in the Department of Theatre, described creating an eerie ambience throughout the play and the goal to create a little tension or suspense.

“I’m trying to play with the shadows and try to play with some color to emphasize around the scenes where

Department of Theatre said the play is a bit different from the novel and Mike Flanagan’s Netflix show by the same name.

“I got chills the other night,” Saxton said. “When you’re sitting there and, all of a sudden, your arms start to feel like that. There were some chills. ... It’s good to go in cold on this one.”

Jocelyn Padron, a visual communication design senior, said she is really looking forward to the play being new territory after having seen the 2018 Netflix adaptation of the book.

“The twist. I was not expecting the end to happen the way it did,” Padron said about the Netflix show’s ending.

She said she enjoys thrillers because they keep her on edge and never knows what will happen next.

“I think psychological is way more scarier because it could happen to us, like, in real life, and we don’t think about it normally,” Padron said.

The play premiered last Friday and continues this weekend in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

“The Haunting of Hill House”  
Albert L. Jeffers Theatre (Edinburg campus)  
7:30 p.m. Friday  
7:30 p.m. Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
General admission: \$17  
Students, faculty, staff with ID: \$7  
Military/seniors: \$12  
Ticket link: showpass.com

it gets tensed up,” Salazar said.

The lighting director said the story is one person’s journey into madness.

“She just, kind of, succumbs into herself, and her own thoughts and her own mind,” he said.

Jennifer Saxton, costume designer and an associate professor in the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Art Exhibit

“Cultures in Motion,” an art exhibit by Master’s of Fine Arts student Jackie Jeanie Moran continues through Wednesday in the Visual Arts Building Gallery, located at 2412 S. Closner Blvd. in Edinburg. Admission is free. The exhibit is hosted by the School of Art and Design.

### Fall Festival

Southern Careers Institute will host Spooktacular Fall Fest 2023 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at 935 N. Expy. in Brownsville. The event will feature trunk-or-treating, a petting zoo, pony rides, activities and games, drawings and more.

### Halloween Park

The City of Brownsville Parks and Recreation Department will host “Park After Dark” from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday in Dean Porter Park, located at 501 E. Ringgold St. The event will feature trunk-or-treat activities, a movie in the patch, vendors, games, candy, costume contests and more. Admission is free.

### Piano Recital

The UTRGV Piano Area will perform a concert from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. The concert will feature works written in the 20th and 21st centuries. Admission is free.

### Tuba Concert

The UTRGV Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble will perform in Octubafest from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The event will feature large and small ensembles and original compositions and arrangements by UTRGV students. Admission is free.

--Compiled by Silvana Villarreal

# SUDOKU



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

### Oct. 16 puzzle answer key:

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





**Javier Neira Garcia**



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Javier Neira Garcia is a business management and administration senior who plays for the UTRGV Golf Team. Garcia graduated from IES Ortega Y Gasset High School in Madrid and his hometown is Gijon, Spain.

**Q: What do you do for fun outside of golf?**

**A:** "I like to play with my friends, hang out with them. I also like to watch series on Netflix. I like any kind of sports."

**Q: What movies or shows do you like?**

**A:** "On Netflix, any type of Spanish series. My favorite one is either 'Prison Break' or 'Breaking Bad.' I also watch 'La Casa De Papel.' I don't have a favorite [movie] but I like any action movie. I also like Marvel movies and Spanish comedies."

**Q: What kind of music do you like?**

**A:** "I usually listen to reggaeton, like, Bad Bunny, Feid and Mora. Favorite songs? I mean, the new Bad Bunny album. Any of those."

**Q: What do you like about the Rio Grande Valley?**

**A:** "The community, I mean, I'm from Spain and I really like [that] I can speak Spanish whenever I want. Pretty much, like, almost everybody speaks Spanish."

**Q: Who is one of your role models?**

**A:** "My father is one of them. Golfers I really like [are] Rory McIlroy just because of how hard they work to get out there."

**Q: Would you want to keep playing or do something with your degree?**

**A:** "I would like to play golf, but I would probably go and study a master's or something in Spain. And after I'm done with my studies, then I would probably try to play golf, like, back in Europe, not here. But yeah, I would like it."

**Q: What are some of your personal goals?**

**A:** "Finish my studies. I think that is my main goal. And then, like, know [that] when I try to play golf, I'm, like, done with my studies. Like, I got my degree, I got my master's."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

# Vaqueros ready to bring in season

**Jose Medina**

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Women's Basketball Team is set to play a home exhibition match against St. Mary's University at 2 p.m. Nov. 4, followed by an away game against Texas Tech University at 6 p.m. Nov. 7 in Lubbock.

Head coach Lane Lord said the new players have been integrating well into the team and credits the veterans who helped them settle in.

"Our three freshmen are outstanding," Lord said. "Ja'Shelle Johnson may start at the point for us. ... Jayda Holiman is a dynamic player, too. ... Taylor [Meyners] is one of our best shooters. ... Kade Hackerott, coach Hackerott's daughter, our associate head coach ... she just brings experience. She's been to three NCAA tournaments. ... Faith Phillips, she's a transfer out of St. Mary's. ... Nyajah Mitchels, 6-foot-4, she's a proven player in the league."

Mitchels, a graduate forward, said the Vaqueros will focus on communication, working hard and being team players going into the upcoming home game.

"Just continue to communicate and just work hard and at the end of the day, just play together as a team," she said.

The team began its season with two exhibition matches in Puerto Rico. The team was victorious in both matches, beating the Hatillo Ganaderas 72-52 on Aug. 10 and the Bayamon Vaqueras 77-44 on Aug. 11.



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Freshman guard Taylor Meyners (left) blocks senior guard Mele Kailahi from shooting the ball during practice last Tuesday afternoon in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Also shown is graduate forward Ashton McCorry.

Lord said he was looking forward to the exhibition against St. Mary's to get the players on film and further develop their play.

"We can go back, critique the game and show them what we did great, show them what we got to work on," he said. "So, everybody will play, probably an equal amount of time kind of like we did in Puerto Rico. ... We want to play well, but we also want to learn from it. We're ready to give our best at Texas Tech."

Hackerott, a junior guard, said her

goal was to help the team achieve more wins.

"Wins are the most fun thing you can do," Hackerott said. "Accolades will come with that."

Asked what it was like to play with her dad, assistant coach Kevin Hackerott, she replied it was fun to be with him.

Hackerott said she appreciates her dad's coaching and making sure she and the team do well.

The team will be introduced at the

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 8

# UTRGV Men's Club Soccer advances Wins spot at nationals through lottery

**Yamilet Galvez**

THE RIDER



COURTESY PHOTO

The UTRGV Men's Club Soccer is preparing to compete at the national level. Shown are Juan Casarez (front row, from left), Arturo Ramirez, Eddy Galvan Jr., Richmond Akwarandu, Diego Torres and Olajide Omotoso. Back row: Coach Jesus Cortez, Pedro Meza, Pascal Aldinger, Daniel Nyasore, Ondré Foste, Ebuka Bright, William Jimenez and Apolinar Guerrero.

The UTRGV Club Soccer finished its final game of the season against the St. Edward's University Hilltoppers on Oct. 15 with a score of 1-1 and is preparing to compete at the national level.

The team has played seven games so far this season, with five wins, one draw and one loss.

Club President Diego Torres, a psychology senior, said it is "amazing" to advance to the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Regionals and Nationals.

"It's amazing because when I started being president of the club and managing all of this, we started having just, like, six members going to every practice, just a couple of scrimmages here and there but just having fun," Torres said. "Now, it's something big. Like, it's something real. We're a very competitive team. We're always building. I think it's all on the foundations."

"... It's a family now, like, everyone is super happy being there practicing. So, I think it's pretty amazing, but also, it's a bit of the work that we've all been committing to."

The team's place is secure for regionals.

"We got it thanks to our points in

See **CLUB**, Page 8

## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

**MEN'S SOCCER**  
6:30 p.m. Thursday  
vs. San José State University  
AT THE UTRGV SOCCER AND TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX

**VOLLEYBALL**  
6:30 p.m. Thursday  
vs. Stephen F. Austin State University  
AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

2 p.m. Saturday  
vs. University of Texas at Arlington

**WOMEN'S GOLF**  
Friday  
vs. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
AT THE MCALLEN COUNTRY CLUB

**TRAVEL**  
*Continued from Page 1*

and the West Bank. “We follow the UT System guidance,” Galy said. “We get reports every single day of what is happening. We also get reports from On Call [International], which is our travel insurance service.”

“There’s war. That is a grave, grave concern. So, if there’s a war, of course, there’s going to be a travel ban. UT System is very concerned with everybody’s health. They’re very conservative. So not only the country ... where war outbreaks or breaks out, [but] also all of the neighboring countries may be included in [the ban].”

There was already significant tension, which was exacerbated when groups of Israeli settlers accompanied by Israeli police officers stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem.

Nicholas Kiersey, a political science professor at UTRGV, explained why the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque was a significant factor in the buildup to the crisis.

“[The storming of the mosque] was really seen as an egregious affront to the dignity of the Palestinian people,” Kiersey said. “It seems very clear that the events are connected—the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the subsequent decision by Hamas to launch a very significant attack on Israel.”

Hamas is a Palestinian Islamic political party that has an armed wing of the same name, according to the Associated Press. Kiersey elaborated further.

“Palestinian people do

not have a lot of political institutions, especially in Gaza, that they can turn to, to represent them because Israel will not allow them to have elections,” he said. “Hamas is an institution that does exist. It is a paramilitary organization as well as a theocratic ideological group. Hamas is by no means a perfect angel. In this conflict, it’s obviously like many other paramilitaries in these situations where a very small minority group with no power are fighting for autonomy and independence are often left forced to do awful things in order to get the world’s attention to their struggle and plight.”

On Oct. 7, the armed wing of Hamas launched an attack on southern Israel, which killed 1,403 Israelis, injured 4,629 and resulted in 203 people being taken hostage by the group, according to the Israeli army.

In response, Israel immediately ordered a complete isolation of the Gaza Strip, cutting off all access to food, water, fuel, electricity and the internet.

They also immediately began a relentless bombing campaign, dropping 6,000 bombs on Gaza in a six-day span, more than it dropped during its 50-day invasion of the Gaza Strip in 2014.

This conflict has exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Almost 2 million people reside in the Gaza Strip, all in an area smaller than the city of Brownsville. Over 95% of its population has no access to clean water, and its population relies almost entirely on foreign aid for basic services.



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

The death toll in Gaza has been extensive. As of Oct. 19, over 3,785 Palestinians have been killed in the days since Oct. 7, including 1,524 children, and 12,493 have been injured, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Hospitals, schools, residential buildings and United Nations facilities have not been spared, with hundreds of civilians killed last Tuesday in an attack on the Al-Ahli Arabi Baptist Hospital in Gaza City.

Generators across the Gaza Strip are running out of fuel due to the blockade. These generators, typically found in hospitals and aid centers, are among the last places in the Gaza Strip with working electricity since Israel cut the power.

There are concerns that this conflict will spill over into neighboring countries, particularly Lebanon, where Israel and Lebanese militia Hezbollah have been increasingly exchanging

rocket fire. UTRGV is concerned about developments along Israel’s borders with Lebanon and Jordan, and the IOC elevated the status of the two countries, with special approval from the university now required for travel to Lebanon and Jordan.

The Rider asked Kiersey about the potential for regional spillover.

“My understanding is that Israeli Air Force has already started attacking Hezbollah targets in Lebanon,” he said. “They just, they’ve been doing that for several days, but they announced it formally [last Tuesday] morning. And this, I think, is a preemptive strike because Iran has warned in no uncertain terms that major attacks on the Gaza Strip will solicit a reaction from Iran. The United States has two carrier battle groups en route. And, probably, these are the major reasons, right now, why this war is not escalating into a full-blown regional conflict. We’re in a very dangerous and precarious situation right now. The whole region could be sucked into a conflict.”

Those wishing to help civilians impacted by the conflict may consider donating to one of the following charities:

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency (<https://www.unrwa.org/>)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (<https://www.icrc.org/en>)
- Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (<https://www.pcrf.net/>)
- American Near East Refugee Aid (<https://www.anera.org/>)
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (<https://www.map.org.uk/>)
- World Food Programme (<https://www.wfp.org/>)

**BASKETBALL**  
*Continued from Page 7*

annual UTRGV Madness event.

Mitchels, who wants to “play [her] heart out” and do her part to help the team win in her last year, said she looks forward to attending UTRGV Madness.

“Everybody come out and support us,” Mitchels said. “We’re really looking forward to a very good year this year. The bigger crowd and the more people we have, the better it’s going to be for us, you know, to amp up the hype and everything for us.”

Lord said UTRGV Madness is one of the funnest nights he has been a part of and looks forward to it every year.

“It’s the greatest event we have on campus,” he said. “It’s unbelievable ... just to have all the student body here all cheering for the Vaqueros. We play some little games, 3-point shooting contests, free-throw contests. But really, it’s about meeting the students and the

students meeting us.”

Lord said he encourages everyone to watch the home games and support UTRGV.

“What we’re doing in Athletics right now is at an all-time high,” the coach said. “Our administration is doing a wonderful job trying to get UTRGV Athletics to where people know who we are across the country. ... We have to have our student body here. ... That’s how you win games at home, is to have that crowd.”

Lord said the team’s goals are to finish top two in the conference and to be undefeated at home games. “That also goes back to, we need the support from our student body and our boosters, and all that kind of stuff, but I think it starts right here at home,” he said.

The Vaqueros’ first Western Athletic Conference game will be against Grand Canyon University Nov. 29 in Phoenix.

For more information on UTRGV Athletics, visit [goutrgv.com](http://goutrgv.com).



**VOTAR**  
*Continúa de página 5*

lo único que en última instancia aprueba la mayoría de los cambios de políticas, y eso es votar. Por lo tanto, las enmiendas constitucionales y las elecciones locales son dos formas muy importantes en las que los estudiantes pueden salir y hacer oír su voz en la democracia”.

Los sitios de votación anticipada en el condado de Hidalgo están abiertos desde:

- 7 a.m. a 7 p.m. hoy hasta el sábado
- 10 a.m. a 4 p.m. el domingo
- 7 a.m. a 7 p.m. del 30 de octubre al 30 de noviembre.

Para ver los 29 sitios de votación del Condado de Hidalgo, visite su sitio web.

Los sitios de votación anticipada en el Condado de Cameron están abiertos desde:

- 9 a.m. a 6 p.m. hoy hasta el viernes
- 10 a.m. a 5 p.m. sábado y domingo
- 9 a.m. a 6 p.m. del 30 de octubre al 1 de noviembre
- 8 a.m. a 8 p.m. el 2 y 3 de noviembre.

Para ver los sitios de votación del Condado de Cameron, visite su sitio web.

Hay siete formas aceptables de identificación con fotografía para presentar en el lugar de votación: licencia de conducir de Texas, identificación de Texas, certificado de identificación electoral de Texas, licencia de portación de armas de Texas, certificado de ciudadanía estadounidense con fotografía, tarjeta de identificación militar de EE.UU. con fotografía y pasaporte estadounidense.

Para obtener más información sobre las enmiendas y la votación en Texas, visite [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov).

ENCUÉTRANOS EN

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**CLUB**  
*Continued from Page 7*

the league, because we ended up first place in our region,” Torres said. “So that’s why we got that spot.”

He said the team secured the spot in nationals through a lottery, in which four teams from each of the six regions can enter to get a spot in the open division.

“For nationals, it was because of a raffle,” Torres said. “... Basically, by luck, we got that spot. And thanks to that, we got that safety spot for the nationals.”

For regionals, the club will compete in Lubbock and

nationals will take place in Round Rock.

Regionals will take place Oct. 27-29, followed by nationals Nov. 16-18.

“We go out there and give it our all and just leave everything on the field,” said Richmond Akwarandu, a nursing senior and vice president of the club. “It feels really good. And most of the guys are excited for that. Most of them are prepping really well, and taking care of their body and getting ready to face this task.”

The team’s record in Region IV is five wins, one tie and one loss.

The teams they faced

during the season were Trinity University, Incarnate Word University, Tarleton State University, Texas State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, St. Edward’s University and South Texas College.

Torres said the game against Trinity University stands out to him.

“We won that game 3-1,” he said. “It was a tough game. And, I felt like it was a game changer for us because it was a tough game. But we managed to get through the situation through a positive mindset. And no matter how the situation of the game was going, we always kept ourselves as a team, being

positive and kept working for it. We ended up winning that game.”

Akwarandu said, “So far, this is our first national, so the guys really work hard for it.”

Pedro Meza, a civil engineering junior and defender for the UTRGV Men’s Club Soccer, talked about improvements that he is most proud of for his team.

“I would say Arturo Ramirez has come a long way,” Meza said. “We have this midfielder, this year he has become one of my favorite players. He’s really improved.”

Torres said the club accepts new members at any point in the semester.

“They’re always welcomed,” he said. “And if they like it, and they think they have the level to be in our competitive squad ... we’re going to have tryouts at the beginning of every semester. So they’re more than welcome to join in, to try it out and to be part of the family as well.”

Students interested in the club can follow [utrgvmclubsoccer](https://www.utrgvmclubsoccer.com) on Instagram. Livestreams of games are available on UTRGV Men’s Club Soccer on Facebook. More information about the club can be found on V Link.