

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

'Let's do the time warp!'

utrgvrider.com

OPINION:

Life between sister cities

Page 4

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL:

Ayoyando a los padres
estudiantes

Página 5

SPORTS:

Vackar Stadium to receive
about \$35M in upgrades

Page 7

HELLO, OCTOBER

Green Party connects with South Texans

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

As the Nov. 5 election approaches, Green Party candidates hosted a meet and greet event on Sept. 30, offering a platform for voters to hear firsthand about their vision for Texas and the country.

Dr. Jill Stein, running for president; Eddie Espinoza, running for Texas Railroad commissioner; and Robin Lee Vargas, running for Texas Senate District 27, hosted the event at The Gremlin Beer Garden and Kitchen in McAllen.

The candidates hosted a similar event Tuesday at Cobbleheads Bar & Grill in Brownsville.

Stein is running against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, former Republican President Donald Trump and Libertarian candidate Chase Oliver.

She told The Rider her journey as a medical doctor motivated her to run for president.

"I just basically saw people getting really sick with whole new categories of illness," Stein said. "We had these new epidemics of asthma, cancers in children and developmental disabilities, diabetes, you name it. I thought to myself, 'Hey, our genes didn't change overnight. There are things in our environment, our food, desserts, our air quality, etc.'"

See **GREEN**, Page 3



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER

Theatre sophomore Elvira Garza carves a pumpkin during the carving/painting contest Wednesday outside the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. See photos online at utrgvrider.com.

Presidential elections on the horizon

Pete Mendoza

THE RIDER

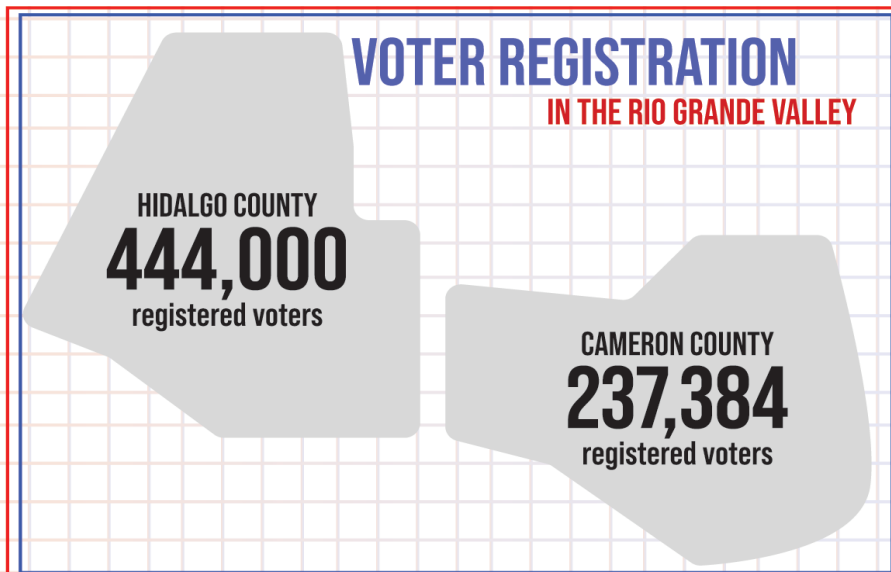
With the presidential election around the corner, students should stay aware of their voter registration status and keep informed, an elections administrator says.

Before the final day to register to vote, which is today, Cameron County had 237,384 registered voters and Hidalgo County had 444,000.

Remi Garza, Cameron County elections administrator, said the precinct-based voting system changed to a countywide voting system throughout Texas in November 2023.

"Election Day will now be like early voting, where you can go to any of the 68 locations to find your ballot," Garza said.

During early voting, which will take



Natalie Lapsley/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

place from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1, Cameron County will have 24 polling locations and Hidalgo County will have 33.

On Election Day, Cameron County will have 68 polling locations and Hidalgo County will have 129.

Garza said students should know where they stand with their voter registration.

"You want to make sure you know what your registration status is, where you are, because it can affect which races you're allowed to vote in," he said.

Hilda Salinas, Hidalgo County elections administrator, said there is a high expectancy for voter turnout this presidential election.

"It's who and what is on the ballot," Salinas said. "A lot of people do have an

See **VOTE**, Page 3

COUNTDOWN TO EARLY VOTING

Visit sos.state.tx.us for more information

14
14

Days until
early voting
begins
Oct. 21

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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Natalie Lapsley

ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Daniela Martinez Salazar

SPANISH EDITOR
Fatima Gamez Lopez

COPY EDITORS
Rebeca Salinas
Viviana Infante
Carlos Castañeda

REPORTERS
Pete Mendoza
Andrew Mayo
Cadence Vaughan
Daniela Chapa-Reyes
Hugo A. Sepúlveda
Vanessa Aguilar

A&E REPORTER
Eduardo Escamilla

SPORTS REPORTER
Ali Halloum

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Angel Ballesteros
Abigail Ollave
Silvana Villarreal
Raquel Cazares
Venisha Colón

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS
Jesus Solis
Andres Estrada

MARKETING SPECIALISTS
Aron Cortez
Bethany Godinez

FACULTY ADVISER
Michell Escajeda

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR
Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:
EDINBURG CAMPUS
1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170
Phone: (956) 665-5085

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
1 West University Blvd.
Student Union 2.16
Phone: (956) 882-5143
Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email:
TheRider@utrgv.edu
© 2024 The Rider

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
Zumba Toning
The **University Recreation Center** will host a Zumba class with **body-sculpting exercises** and **high-energy cardio** from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Sundaes on Mondays
The **Student Union** will host **Sundaes on Mondays** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. Students must **present their ID** to receive their sundae.

Sex Education
Access for Sex Education will host a weekly session titled **“Creating a Safe and Educational Space About Sex-Ed for our Community.”** The event will have tabling, free condoms, Plan Bs and more from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Texas Rising
The **Texas Rising** will host a **weekly tabling** event from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Library on the Brownsville campus.

Last Day to Vote
The **Center for Student Involvement** and **Vaqueros Vote** invite students to check their

voter registration status online during the last day to register to vote before the Nov. 5 election. To check registration status and find polling locations, visit teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov.

Tuesday
Early Childhood Review
The **Department of Human Development and School Services** will host **review sessions** for the **Early Childhood Pk-3 certification exam**, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Education Complex Building on the

Edinburg campus. Teacher candidates can attend to prepare for the exam; contact irasema.gonzalez@utrgv.edu or julia.cuevaso1@utrgv.edu for more details.

Cycle Fit
The **University Recreation Center** will host a **cycling workout** during which students can pedal through various settings, including **hills, climbs and sprints**, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday
Zumba
The **University Recreation Center** will host **Zumba classes** from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Duo Billiards Tournament
The **Student Union** will host a **Duo Billiards Tournament** at noon in the Game Rooms on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

Sustainability Days
The **Office of Sustainability** will host a **“Campus Sustainability Day”** from 10 a.m. to noon on the Quad on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Students can **listen to music, play games and visit booths**. **Free food and goodies** will be available.

Senator Town Hall
The **Student Government Association**, along with **College of Health Professions and Sciences** and the **School of Nursing**, will host a

town hall where students can **ask questions** about their **degrees, programs and possible internship opportunities** from noon to 1 p.m. in Health Affairs Building East Room 1.102 on the Edinburg campus.

Thursday
Bible Study
Christians RGV will host a **Bible study** for anyone who wants to know about its scripture and ask questions. There will be **free pizza** while it lasts from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Salón Jacaranda on the Brownsville campus.

HOF Pop-Up
The **House of Fashion** will host a **pop-up fundraising event** to sell clothing and other items from 3 to 5 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus.

Conjunto Plug
The **Student Union** will host a conjunto club as part of **“Union Unplugged”** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Student Union Veranda on the Brownsville campus.

Friday
Boxing
The **University Recreation Center** will host **boxing classes** from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Vanessa Aguilar



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 24 and Sept. 30.

Sept. 24
5:56 p.m.: University Police officers assisted the Edinburg Police Department with a possible assault in progress in Lot E-34. Upon arrival, officers spoke to two non-affiliated women. During the investigation, an Edinburg Police officer located narcotics in one of the women's belongings and arrested her.

8:17 p.m.: University Police officers responded to a possible assault in Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a non-affiliated woman who claimed she was assaulted by her landlord, also non-affiliated. Officers spoke to the man and found him to be intoxicated in a public place and a danger to himself. Subsequently, University Police officers placed him

under arrest for public intoxication and transported him to the Edinburg Police Jail for booking procedures. The assault charge was left pending further investigation.

Sept. 25
12:27 p.m.: University Police officers responded to a student stuck inside an elevator in the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. After the doors were opened, the student said he was fine and not injured. The elevator was placed out of service and a work order was submitted for repairs.

Sept. 26
1:57 p.m.: University Police officers responded to a verbal disturbance between two non-affiliated adults over a parking

space in Lot H-5 on the Harlingen campus. Officers determined no verbal threats or physical contact were made by either individual.

8:52 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to a report of a knife found inside the women's restroom in Performing Arts Complex Building B on the Edinburg campus. The knife was submitted into property for safekeeping.

Sept. 27
5:34 p.m.: University Police officers responded to an active fire alarm at the Medical Education building on the Edinburg campus. The alarm was activated by a fog machine that was being used by employees. The building was cleared for reentry.

Sept. 28
1:13 p.m.: University Police officers responded to an odor of gas near the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. Officers checked the area and determined a stove had been left on. They subsequently contacted the Edinburg Fire Department, which arrived on scene, aired out the building and deemed it safe for reentry. A student requested emergency medical services because the odor made her feel unwell. She was evaluated by EMS and refused transport.

Sept. 30
10:29 a.m.: A University Police officer approached several students who were using personal transportation devices on the Bronc Trail on the Edinburg campus. The officer informed the students of university policy, and the students said they would comply.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas



GOT NEWS? TELL US ABOUT IT
therider@utrgv.edu

GREEN *Continued from Page 1*

Through her journey to help communities, Stein realized, "You can't fight city hall unless you challenge city hall."

"I started off as a Green because I [saw] too much corruption in the Democrats," she said. "I did not want to do that. ... I basically saw that people are hungry for something that's not part of the same old corrupt system."

If elected, Stein said one thing she would do in office would be to stop the genocide. "I grew up after the Holocaust, after the genocide," she said. "... Our community was saying, 'Is there life after genocide?' And what we decided was we would not let genocide happen again. ... So, I cannot sit by and watch a genocide be inflicted on innocent children and civilians. So, I'm fulfilling my obligation, you know, as a Jew who was not killed by genocide and [I] want to help make sure it's not going to happen again."

On Sept. 30, Stein visited the border wall in Pharr.

"What is this wall doing in the middle of nowhere, you know, blocking the movement of people, blocking the movement of wildlife [and] screwing up the environment," she said. "It just felt like it was a scar on the landscape—this symbol of militarization that just doesn't belong in our communities whatsoever."

Stein said it is time to "tear down the wall."

"What Donald Trump and, now, Kamala Harris are saying is that migrants are the source of community violence and instability," she said. "No, it's exactly the other way around. It's migrants who

bring stability, who are law-abiding, who bring prosperity to our community. We say it's time to tear down the wall and let's save the money from ... the expensive wall."

Since its start in 2021, Operation Lone Star has resulted in over 516,000 migrant apprehensions, over 45,000 criminal arrests and more than 39,000 felony charges, according to a July 19 news release from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office.

During the border mission,

Texas Republicans have held the commission," he said. "And we are trying to get one seat so that we can ... give regulatory powers to climate scientists, environmental groups and Texas citizens, because right now that commission is captured by the oil and gas industry."

Republican incumbent Christi Craddick; engineer Katherine Culbert, a Democrat; Libertarian candidate Hawk Dunlap; and independent candidate

need to turn this ship around to give them a chance to live on a habitable planet because, right now, global warming is going to be an issue for all of us. And the little ones, when they grow up, they're going to be dealing with the mess."

One of Espinoza's top priorities is to address the pressing issue of abandonment of oil and gas wells.

If elected, he wants to have open-door meetings for the community to hear about the

because ... the [Rio Grande] Valley will be dealing with tropical storms, droughts and high temperatures."

Besides Lee Vargas, Democratic incumbent Morgan LaMantia and Corpus Christi businessman Adam Hinojosa, a Republican, are running in the general election for Texas State Senate District 27.

Lee Vargas said hosting events helps to inform voters.

"We want to meet and greet our constituents and people that are not our constituents," she said. "We still want them to be mindful and to learn that the options are here and they are here to stay. ... These events are about getting people registered and getting the information out there."

Shujoun Abdullah, a McAllen resident, attended the Green Party event to support Stein.

Abdullah said Harris and Trump are "reading the same script in a different way."

"If you hear closely, you'll find very similar ideas basically said by Kamala in a formal way and said by Trump in a nonformal way, but that's basically it," she said. "I see them both competing on who loves Israel more. And to me, that's a deal breaker right now with everything that's going on in the world."

Abdullah encourages people to vote.

"I believe that every part of the United States, whether border or not, is important because we are part of this community," she said. "This is our country. Whether you're from the border, whether you're from the middle or from anywhere in the United States, you have a right to vote for someone you believe will do better for the United States."



Venisha Colón/THE RIDER

Dr. Jill Stein (right), the Green Party candidate for president, and Kelly Merrill, her deputy campaign manager, listen to local activist Citlaly Lopez (left) and Martin Cuevas during a meet and greet Tuesday at Cobbleheads Bar & Grill in Brownsville.

the Texas Department of Public Safety seized over 505 million lethal doses of fentanyl, the news release stated.

Espinoza said the Texas Railroad Commission oversees and regulates the oil and gas industry in the state.

"For the past 30 years, the

Richard McKibbin are also running in the general election for Texas Railroad commissioner.

Espinoza told The Rider being a retired teacher inspired him to run for office.

"Right now, we are ruining the planet for younger generations," he said. "We

decision-making process.

"We want to be very transparent," Espinoza said. "As far as representing the Green Party, we are about transparency and no closed-door meetings and no corporate rule. ... It's time to invest in our citizens and invest in our civil infrastructure

VOTE *Continued from Page 1*

interest for a presidential election, of course, because they would be electing their next president."

Integrated health science freshman Angel Yanez said the upcoming presidential election is showing change between the two parties.

"It's two juggernauts of the modern-day politicians, that is Donald J. Trump and Kamala Harris," Yanez said. "And this election is mostly male versus female and Democrat versus Republican."

He said the news media has a major impact on voters' decisions.

"A lot of us get motivated by what we see online instead of doing our own research," Yanez said. "We don't really see the policies which each politician's pushing, such as Harris pushing for open borders and then Trump pushing for closed borders."

Integrated health science senior Armando Duran said voting causes change in the economy, politics and democracy.

"We're not at the best, you know, state right now," Duran said. "So it's important for us to try to make a difference for those future students to have a better place in this campus."

He said the current term is what encouraged him to vote during this upcoming election.

"I feel like it's even more important now to step in and do something to contribute," Duran said. "I feel it's a very powerful thing to live in a democratic country where you have a choice to vote and who you want to run this country."

He said the economy and foreign policy are his main concerns.

"There's so many things going on right now and we can't even control it, especially with the president we have right now," Duran said. "At the very least, have our people safe. Here, in a low-income area, it's very important to at least have that safety in knowing that you're going to be OK."

Political science sophomore Alex Diaz said the election is an eye-opener to the values of the country.

"It's kind of disheartening to see how close this race is when we know that one of the candidates is basically a weirdo," Diaz said. "If anything, this is just as consequential, or detrimental, as the 2016 election."

Salinas said the Hidalgo website is a way to stay informed for those that live in the Hidalgo County.

"The website is consistently being updated with information as it becomes available," she said. "We have a wide variety of information that is on the page that can help the voter be informed before they head to the polls."

To stay informed on voting and registration, visit the Cameron County and the Hidalgo County websites.

"I feel like it's even more important now to step in and do something to contribute. I feel it's a very powerful thing to live in a democratic country where you have a choice to vote and who you want to run this country."

**--Armando Duran,
integrated health
science senior**

Brownsville Coffee Shop #2, Inc.

Serving the community since 1975



Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

(956) 546-9650

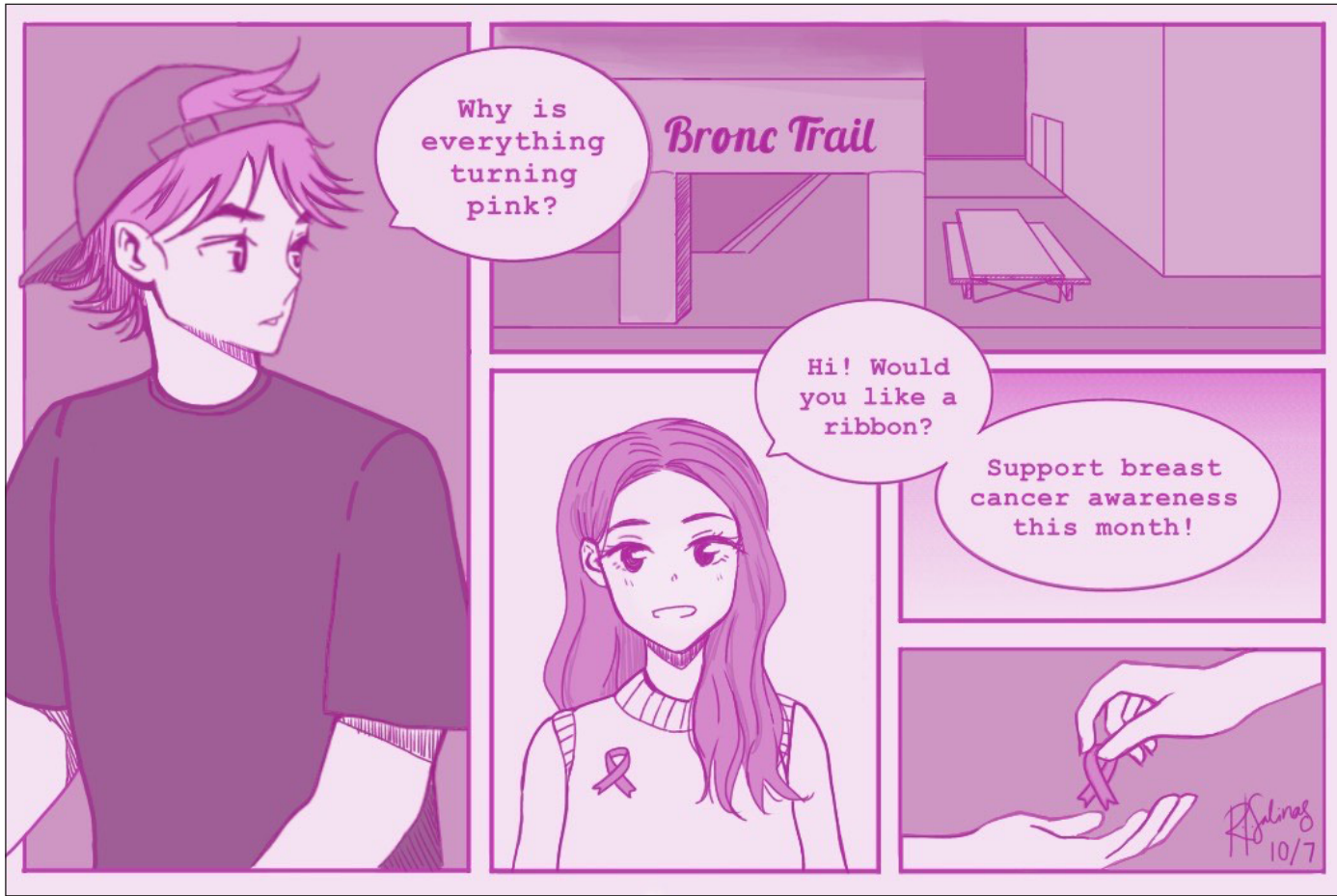
3230 International Blvd.
Brownsville, Texas. 78521

Jovita Chase

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOV. 5 ELECTION

Visit sos.state.tx.us
for more information





YAQUERO VOICE

Who do you consider a role model in your personal life?

Victoria Garcia
criminal justice senior

"I would consider my parents my role models, because they are business owners and they help people in the community and they are caring. So, I aspire to be like them because of how much they help people."

Life between sister cities



Carlos Castañeda
COPY EDITOR

Growing up between the United States and Mexico has been interesting. Don't get me wrong; I am proud to be Mexican, and I have enjoyed growing up and living in a place where I can experience two cultures.

I will always consider both Brownsville and Matamoros as my hometowns since I commute almost daily between them. It is impossible to say which one I like better.

I attended a bilingual school in Matamoros, which allowed me to grow up speaking both English and Spanish.

I remember the times of former Mexican President Felipe Calderón, when schools held shooting drills in case something happened. It was normal to be on lunch break playing kickball or tag with your friends when, suddenly, an armed conflict happened right next to the school.

I find it sad how that became the new normal in Tamaulipas, but I find it even sadder that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who left office Tuesday, has criticized Calderón without making a great improvement. I have no idea how his hand-picked successor, Claudia Sheinbaum, won the 2024 election with 60% of the popular vote.

Safety is a concern headed by the federal government in collaboration with state and local governments. So, yes, it is true

that Matamoros has major safety issues, but I believe they're not as bad as people in the Rio Grande Valley tell me.

I have attended school in Brownsville since 2019, my sophomore year of high school. I do not know

how many people have told me how dangerous Matamoros, or Mexico overall, is and that I'm brave for daring to go there.

People are afraid of going into Mexico, unless they go to, like, Cancun or Mexico City, which I find ridiculous. While staying updated and reading the news is good and informative, I have

come to realize it is important to have an opinion of your own.

Thousands of people, including me, commute daily between Tamaulipas and Texas without any issues.

Most people should be fine visiting our border sister cities taking regular precautions that should be followed anywhere in the world: follow the law, do not go into known dangerous areas, do not drive late at night and respect the locals.

Taking these precautions, I believe

the chances of having your automobile stolen are slim to none.

People are not missing out on anything if they choose not to go to Mexico. I respect that choice. At the same time, as a border commuter, I am not "brave" for

going across the Rio Grande.

While I appreciate the concern, I do not enjoy being told that Matamoros or Reynosa are highly unsafe by people who live on the border and do not dare to visit because of fear.

I wonder what changes, if any, will take place in Mexico now that President Sheinbaum was sworn into office.

"People are not missing out on anything if they choose not to go to Mexico. I respect that choice. At the same time, as a border commuter, I am not "brave" for going across the Rio Grande."

Guadalupe Medrano
mechanical engineering sophomore

"I consider my sister a role model because she was the first one out of all of us to pursue an engineering degree. She is the first generation and she was the one that set the path for me."

Denisse Almanza
psychology freshman

"My role model would be my mom because she is always persuading me and pushing me to be the best that I can, and she is always telling me that she wants me to live a comfortable and happy life. She is the reason why I continue to study."

Jose Guerrero
finance freshman

"The role model in my personal life would be my mom because she always looked out for me in my toughest moments and she's always been there. And I love her a lot for that, and I'll always care about her."

--Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar

VISIT US ONLINE AT UTRGVRIDER.COM TO PARTICIPATE

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE THE ABILITY TO INSTANTLY LEARN ANY PROFESSION OR INSTANTLY MASTER ANY SPORT?

71.43% INSTANTLY LEARN ANY PROFESSION	28.57% INSTANTLY MASTER ANY SPORT
---	---

Apoyando a los padres estudiantes

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

UTRGV y la Student Parent Success Organization (SPSO, por sus siglas en inglés) brindan a estudiantes embarazadas y a padres estudiantes adaptaciones académicas y una sala de estudio familiar, al mismo tiempo que abogan por sus necesidades únicas.

Eva De Jesus, estudiante de último año de ciencias de la salud integradas, es la fundadora y presidenta de SPSO y madre de un niño de 1 año.

De Jesus fundó la organización en el otoño de 2023 con la esperanza de conectar con otros padres estudiantes y apoyarlos con “los recursos académicos que ofrece UTRGV”.

“Fundé esta organización porque, honestamente, sentí que no había mucho apoyo para los padres estudiantes”, dijo. “[...] Me inspiré en otras universidades [...] para comenzar un cuarto de estudio familiar en la biblioteca de UTRGV. Entonces, tuve que, ya sabes, que ver si estudiantes estaban interesados en tener un espacio como ese inspirado en otras universidades”.

El cuarto de estudio familiar de UTRGV está ubicado en los cuartos 2.112 y 2.113 de la Biblioteca Universitaria en el campus de Edinburg y está abierto a estudiantes, profesores y personal con niños.

El cuarto de estudio cuenta con una computadora, una impresora, juguetes y libros educativos para niños.

“Solo esperamos que esta iniciativa [...] atraiga a más estudiantes”, dijo De Jesus. “De esa manera, pueden conectarse y también [...] continuar con su educación y simplemente mostrarle a las generaciones futuras que pueden obtener una educación superior sin importar lo que pase, y que el cielo es el límite”.

SPSO recaudó más de \$800 de donaciones y vendiendo palomitas de maíz para el cuarto de estudio.

“Como padres estudiantes, les mostramos a nuestros

hijos que nada es imposible”, dijo De Jesus. “Al equilibrar los libros y los cuentos para dormir, demostramos que la educación y la paternidad son una combinación poderosa. Plantamos las semillas de la determinación y el crecimiento.

“A través de nuestra dedicación a la educación, nutrimos esas semillas, ayudándolas a florecer en un futuro donde nuestros hijos prioricen el aprendizaje y crean que todo es posible”.

Los estudiantes pueden unirse a la organización a través de V Link.

Shawn P. Saladin, director de

opciones como escritorios más grandes, ausencias justificadas, descansos de clase, extensiones de plazos y alternativas para recuperar el trabajo perdido.

Según la Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity, UTRGV se dedica a fomentar un entorno inclusivo libre de discriminación, de acuerdo con el Título IX, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual basada en el embarazo, estado civil o el estado parental en varios aspectos de la vida universitaria, incluidas las inscripciones, la educación y el empleo.

Saladin dijo que UTRGV

universidad para los padres estudiantes.

“Sinceramente, me daba vergüenza pedir ayuda porque soy una madre joven”, dijo. “Y, ya sabes, como va eso culturalmente. Pero durante mucho tiempo, me sentí un poco avergonzada y terminé enterándome a través de [...] los anuncios [en myutrgv.edu] sobre el [Child Development Center]”.

Mendoza dijo que enfrentó muchas dificultades debido a problemas con la guardería. Después de enterarse de la existencia del Child Development Center, se postuló

hasta ahora, no ha habido ningún tipo de noticias, pero es algo que están investigando y posiblemente hagan en el futuro”.

Para obtener más información sobre el centro, llame al 665-2469 o visite su sitio web.

El propósito de Student Parent Success Organization es ayudar a los padres estudiantes a tener éxito en la universidad.

“Tengo mis propios testimonios de que no es lo más fácil ser estudiante y padre el mismo día”, dijo Mendoza. “Sabes, a veces, nuestros hijos nos necesitan el mismo día, pero también estamos aquí tratando de tomar un examen en el campus. [...] Somos una organización. Somos una comunidad que se ayuda entre sí porque [...] se necesita un pueblo para criar a los niños”.

Dijo que es importante crear conciencia sobre las adaptaciones disponibles para los padres estudiantes y las estudiantes embarazadas.

“A veces, ni siquiera sabemos que la persona sentada a nuestro lado, que probablemente no parece un padre, es un padre que está pasando por sus propias luchas”, dijo Mendoza.

Alethea García, estudiante de tercer año de trabajo social, que es madre de un niño de 3 años y actualmente está esperando su segundo bebé, dijo que no ha utilizado ninguna de las adaptaciones que UTRGV ofrece para los padres estudiantes, pero que las conoce.

García anima a los estudiantes que son padres y a las estudiantes embarazadas a no abandonar su educación solo porque están embarazadas o porque tienen un hijo.

“No se detengan”, dijo. “No tienen que detenerse ni posponer sus planes solo porque están embarazadas o porque acaban de tener un bebé. Ya sabes, hay recursos disponibles para ayudar en todo lo que puedan. Puedes hablar con alguien de la universidad y estoy bastante segura de que te ayudarán en todo lo que puedan, lo cual es increíble”.



Angel Ballesteros / FOTORIDER

El Cuarto de Estudio Familiar de UTRGV ofrece un entorno en el que los padres pueden trabajar mientras mantienen a sus hijos cerca. Está ubicado en los cuartos 2.112 y 2.113 de la Biblioteca Universitaria en el campus de Edinburg.

Student Accessibility Services, dijo que es responsable de brindarle a los padres estudiantes actuales, entrantes o estudiantes embarazadas información sobre las adaptaciones disponibles para ellos.

Saladin dijo que en la pestaña de Pregnancy and Parenting del sitio web de Student Accessibility Services, los estudiantes pueden encontrar formularios de embarazo y crianza con información sobre las adaptaciones disponibles para ellos.

Los formularios tienen como objetivo ayudar a la universidad a evaluar las solicitudes de adaptaciones académicas relacionadas con el embarazo y la crianza de los hijos, incluidas

ofrece cuartos de lactancia para todos los profesores, el personal y los estudiantes para brindar un lugar cómodo y tranquilo para amamantar.

Hay nueve suites para madres lactantes en los campus de Edinburg, Brownsville y Harlingen. Para acceder a las suites, envíe el formulario de solicitud para obtener una Mommy Card. El formulario se puede encontrar en el sitio web de Nursing Mother Suites de UTRGV.

Laura Mendoza, estudiante de segundo año de humanidades médicas y de salud, es miembro de SPSO y madre de un niño de 2 años.

Mendoza dijo que al principio no estaba al tanto de las adaptaciones que ofrece la

de inmediato y fue aceptada.

“Conseguí disponibilidad para mi hijo, porque tienen cupos limitados”, dijo Mendoza. “Me apunté rápidamente y eso ha sido lo mejor para mí hasta ahora con el Child Development Center”.

El centro ofrece servicios de cuidado infantil a estudiantes, profesores y personal para niños de 3 meses a 5 años.

Según su sitio web, el centro ayuda a los padres estudiantes de bajos ingresos y elegibles para la beca Pell a pagar los servicios de cuidado infantil.

“Sé que se habla de querer abrir un [centro] allí [en Brownsville]”, dijo Krystal Saucedo, asistente administrativa del Child Development Center. “Pero



Silvana Villarreal / FOTOS RIDER

Destiny Rincon, estudiante de tercer año de biología marina, dibuja el diseño que tallará en su calabaza para el concurso el miércoles afuera del Student Union en el campus de Brownsville.



Cassandra Alaniz, estudiante de último año de educación, pinta su calabaza con temática de Mike Wazowski para el concurso de tallado de calabazas el miércoles afuera del Student Union en el campus de Brownsville.



Alfonso García, estudiante de primer año de seguridad cibernética, carva el interior de su calabaza durante el concurso de tallado de calabazas el miércoles afuera del Student Union en el campus de Brownsville.

Calabaza con la raza

Cuckoo for Cuco



Did you have an imaginary friend as a child?



Alfonso Cardenas
accounting junior
Jacob was a little boy who wore shorts and a white T-shirt.



Andrea Guerra
integrated health science
freshman
Tomas was an imaginary friend that Andrea's parents thought had possessed her.



Samuel Gomez
education freshman
Champion was a little dog.



Teresa Garza
mathematics freshman
Bingo was a dog who ran around with Teresa when she was a child.

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarreal

WATCH THE VIDEO
ON INSTAGRAM
@UTRGVRIDER



Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Omar Banos, known by his stage name Cuco and born in Inglewood, California, performs Sept. 30 at the McAllen Convention Center for his "4U" tour. In an interview Sept. 24, Banos told The Rider, "I love coming to McAllen. ... I always try to hit as many cities in Texas as possible. ... Every city [in Texas] always shows so much love. Being in McAllen, this is a super different vibe, and I really like it."



Omar Banos, known by his stage name Cuco, plays a repertoire of classic and new songs on stage with guitarist Fern Carbajal Sept. 30 at the McAllen Convention Center for his "4U" tour. In an interview Sept. 24, Banos told The Rider, "I hope everybody feels like they're being taken away from the rest of the world for like an hour and a half of music that we're performing."

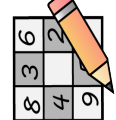


Omar Banos, known by his stage name Cuco, calls out for items that fans are holding up, such as albums, T-shirts and even shoes in between sets, to autograph them Sept. 30 at the McAllen Convention Center for his "4U" tour.



Omar Banos, known by his stage name Cuco, gives fans a memorable performance Sept. 30 at the McAllen Convention Center for his "4U" tour. In an interview Sept. 24, Banos told The Rider that anyone can achieve their dreams. "Just keep it going and keep it pushing," he said. "It's not impossible in this day and age. Like, everybody has a shot, so ... you really just gotta ... go for it."

SUDOKU



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

Sept. 30 puzzle answer key:

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

Rubi Ortiz



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Rubi Ortiz is a marketing freshman from Bay City, Texas, who plays midfield for the UTRGV Women's Soccer Team. She scored her first collegiate goal in the 12th minute of a 2-2 conference draw against the McNeese State University Cowgirls at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field complex on the Edinburg campus.

Q: Can you tell us a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I have a rottweiler. His name is Loki. He is my best friend."

Q: Who or what got you started in soccer?

A: "My dad. Since I was little, we were always on the field, every day. That's all I remember, actually, being on the field."

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

A: "Probably my brother—my little brother. He's always been working hard in soccer and football, and he's getting a lot better. So, he's probably my drive right now."

Q: What kind of music do you like to listen to?

A: "I love everything. I love Billie Eilish. She's my favorite."

Q: Any shows or movies you like to watch?

A: "I'm watching 'Lost' right now. [It's] pretty good."

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: "Homework, is that a hobby? That's all I do outside of soccer. I guess watching Netflix, that's my hobby."

Q: What is your biggest motivation?

A: "My dad [and] my family."

Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?

A: "I love the atmosphere. Everyone is so nice and very outgoing and they just love. They're not afraid to connect, especially people who are not in athletics. They're easy to talk to and easy to be friends with."

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: "To be able to go more in-depth with soccer. My goal right now is to become the best I can be as a freshman. And then, sophomore year, [to be] better than my freshman year."

--Compiled by Ali Halloum

Vackar Stadium to receive about \$35M in upgrades



PHOTOS COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

A rendering shows the renovation plans for the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium. New bleachers will be added behind the south end zone, which will increase the capacity of the stadium from 9,700 to 12,000.

Ali Halloum

SPORTS REPORTER

Students will have a section of their own with thousands of bleacher seats at the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium as part for an estimated \$35 million upgrade in preparation for the inaugural football season in 2025.

The UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics announced in a Sept. 25 news release that the proposed upgrades include lowering the field, adding turf, new luxury seating and elevators in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Construction of new bleachers by the south end zone will raise the capacity of Vackar Stadium to about 12,000.

Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics, said the department knew the Vackar Stadium was a great facility "from day one."

"It was a great soccer stadium," Conque said. "But there were some things we knew we were gonna need to address to make it a great Division I college football stadium."

Vackar Stadium was acquired from the City of Edinburg after its previous tenant, the RGV FC Toros, folded. The stadium was then known as H-E-B Park.

"[Expanding the capacity was] something we knew was really important because the current capacity is 9,700," Conque said. "So, we have to modify some things. ... There was [also] some things we needed to do from an [ADA] compliance standpoint."

The department has, over the last two years, committed \$160 million in facility upgrades for all of its athletic

programs.

The decision to expand the stadium also comes in light of Athletics' announcement that season ticket deposits for the inaugural 2025 season were

"That was important for us to keep that percentage high," he said. "... If [the visitors] are in the red zone and we're trying to make a goal line stand, you think about

not gonna see [elsewhere] at the FCS level," Bush said. "[I look forward to] being a part of that game-day atmosphere and the history that's gonna be made down here."

Conque said working on player facilities for both the Vaqueros and the visiting teams will be part of this upgrade. He also said having pre-existing professional facilities makes these upgrades "easy."

"The locker room spaces there are very nice, but they were built for soccer," he said. "Part of the improvements we're making are for facilities for our visiting teams so they can accommodate a full football team as well as home [team] facilities."

He said a large donation from Robert and Janet Vackar, the namesake of the stadium, was largely what allowed the department to invest in the facility upgrades.

The remainder of the funds for the upgrades come from the departments' own revenue, according to Jonah Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for Communications and Championships.

"The unbelievable generosity of Bob and Janet Vackar ... allowed us to make some investments out there," Conque said. "That will not only benefit our football program, but the community—the university community and certainly the student experience."

Construction of these upgrades has yet to begin. However, Athletics is already looking at contractors and hopes to have the facilities ready for kickoff in Fall 2025.



A rendering shows a tunnel that serves as an entrance to the field for the UTRGV Football Team at the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium.

sold out.

New bleachers will be built and used for the student section at Vackar Stadium.

the environment our students will be able to create, along with our marching band."

UTRGV Football head



A rendering shows the suites next to the field at the Robert & Janet Vackar Stadium. The suites are set to be renovated with new luxury seatings.

Conque said there will be seven dedicated student sections at Vackar Stadium, totaling 3,000 seats or 25% of the stadium's capacity.

coach Travis Bush said it was "pretty cool" that the stadium is getting an upgrade.

"It's gonna create a game-day atmosphere that you're



College of Engineering
& Computer Science



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CYBER SECURITY (BSCS)

EARN FOUR CREDENTIALS IN ONE BS IN CYBER SECURITY DEGREE

A student of BS in Cyber Security is able to earn the following as part of the degree (no additional hours):

- Cyber Security Basics Certificate
- Cyber Security Systems Certificate
- Cyber Security Advanced Certificate

SALIENT FEATURES:

- Three **Stackable certificates**
- Two **Industry Certifications** as part of the core
- **College credit** for industry certifications
- **Interdisciplinary:** Cyber Security + Criminal Justice + Business Law + Information Systems
- Aligned with the **national standard of NICE-WFC**

▶ BE ON THE **FAST-TRACK: BS IN CYBER SECURITY PLUS MS IN INFORMATICS IN 4+1 YEARS**

Fast-Track 4+1 program offers an opportunity to the graduates of Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security degree to complete a Master's degree with concentration in cyber security in one year.

▶ ADD VALUE TO YOUR **NON-CYBER SECURITY DEGREE VIA A MINOR IN CYBER SECURITY**

A Minor in Cyber Security allows students majoring in UTRGV programs other than Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security to get familiar with the important and growing field of cyber security, which impacts almost every aspect of our society and life.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATICS (MSIN)

Earn **three** credentials in one MS in Informatics degree. A student of MS in Informatics is able to earn the following as part of the degree (no additional hours):

- Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security
- Graduate Certificate in Informatics

SALIENT FEATURES:

- Two **Stackable certificates**
- A balanced mix of cyber security and informatics
- Includes security & forensics, data science, reverse engineering, data mining, e-commerce, Internet app programming, databases, and networks
- Thesis option for research-oriented students
- Coursework option

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Program Coordinator • cyberspace@utrgv.edu



APPLY NOW (BSCS):

utrgv.edu/undergraduate-admissions



APPLY NOW (MSIN):

utrgv.edu/gradapply



To learn more,
visit utrgv.edu/ies.