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Updated election results

utrgvrider.com

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FROM BLUE TO RED

**Eduardo Escamilla
and Pete Mendoza**
THE RIDER

In the aftermath of the 2024 presidential election, two UTRGV political science professors shared their initial thoughts on the results in an interview with The Rider.

Political science Professor Mark Kaswan said Trump winning the election was not surprising, but what was surprising was the performance.

"I was shocked at how poorly Democrats did pretty much across the board," Kaswan said.

Political science Professor Nicholas Kiersey said the election outcome was "a very, very good thing for people who cared about the Democratic Party," implying it was a serious wake-up call.

"It was an election driven by fear. What comes across to me fairly clearly is that it wasn't about policy. It was about how people felt."

**--Mark Kaswan,
political science
professor**

"I mean, this was not a close election; it was a landslide," Kiersey said. "And people need to get serious now. No more childish silliness. No more appeasing Wall Street. Let's get back to a working-class Democratic Party, or throw out the Democratic Party, and start a new worker, working-class party or something. But this, this cannot go on."

Kaswan said the contested elections between both parties are good for democracy.

"It also means, in the long run, that Democrats are going to have to step up their game if they want to continue to have as much influence in the region," he said.

Kaswan said this election is similar to the 2016 election.

"It was an election driven by fear," he said. "What comes across to me fairly clearly is that it wasn't about policy. It was about how people felt."

With all 254 Texas counties reporting results as of Wednesday, Trump garnered 6,375,318 votes, or 56.22%, compared to Harris' 4,806,441 votes, or 42.38%.

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Editor's note: *The Rider* asked members of the campus community, "What was your reaction to the election results and why?"



"A lot of immigrants and people who are related to immigrants also voted for [Trump], knowing that he wants illegals out."

Sophia Padilla
psychology freshman



"I guess my reactions were, like, not good because of all the controversy with Trump. I think women deserve to do what they want with their bodies and, like, he has a plan to override that. So, I don't like that."

Aaron Rodriguez
English junior



"I thought that the election was going to be ... a win for Kamala more than Trump, but I really thought it's a good decision for the country to have a Trump for the 47th president, since I think the economy was good on the 45th. ... Hopefully, we can actually get so much better in [the] economy or something that helps people on their income to buy their houses because the taxes [on] buying a house is pretty high. Hopefully that can go down."

Roger Alvarez
manufacturing engineering senior



"I'm very surprised, honestly, because I feel like the media showed, like, a lot of support for Kamala. So, seeing that Trump won not only the electoral but the [popular] vote as well by, I think, like 5 million ... he won a lot, by a lot. ... I know it's, like, the state's power to choose about abortion and contraceptives and stuff like that, but I think I'm just concerned, like, if he ends up putting more laws in place restricting women's health care, because already a lot of women have died due to not being able to have access to abortions and stuff like that, in cases of rape, incest, like that. So, I think I'm just worried about women's futures for the next four years."

Autumn Adauto
integrated health science freshman



"Well, my reaction was pretty negative to be honest. ... All the stuff from Project 2025 to the overturning of Roe v. Wade, it was all just negative to me because I feel like, as a person, women should have their own right to choose. So, like, I feel like we are going into an era that might not be good for people of LGBTQ+ or women in general."

Alexis Rivera
information systems junior



"I feel like people are not educated enough when they vote for who is the best candidate, I say. I feel like it's mainly based on their own opinions and prejudices against other minorities and that they should further educate themselves before making a vote."

Kayla Mendiola
music education freshman



"I mean, Trump was gonna win. We all kinda already knew a little bit. ... He's, like, publicly been everywhere and doing theatrics, and I think that's why he was popular."

Stephen Morales
IT media systems technician II



"The fact that the Republicans also won the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court means that there's no one to really challenge Trump's presidency. ... I truly think it's devastating and leaves Trump the clear path to complete anything dealing with Project [2025], which is something that is truly frightening for me."

Daniel Drane
electrical engineering junior



"I feel like the outcome of this election aligns more towards my Christian religious beliefs, and I believe that Trump will do the best things for Christian beliefs in office. ... I just hope that God guides him and does what's best, so we'll see."

Josiah Padilla
biomedical sciences junior



"I was hoping Trump would win, you know? I feel like he has a bad image. The people give him a bad image. The media gives him a bad image and if you do your own research, I feel like maybe your opinion would change."

Dylan Hernandez
mechanical engineering junior



"I think it's just very concerning, considering our location and the diversity of people being able to live their lives, and it's hard to feel hope when there's a lot of negativity and seeing how the results played out."

Katy Amador
sustainable agriculture and food systems senior

--Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar and Venisha Colón

THE RIDER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Living Waters

The **Baptist Student Ministry** will have **conversations about faith over a free horchata** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Academic Building lobby on the Brownsville campus.

German Club Meeting
The **RGV German Club** meets from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in Main Building Room 1.224 on the Brownsville campus.

Zumba Toning
University Recreation invites students to stay active and in shape through **body-sculpting exercises and high energy cardio** from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Game On
The **Student Union** will host **“Board Games Day”** at 1 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses. Participants must present a valid student ID.

Tuesday Penny Wars
Fraternity and Sorority Life will host a **“Penny Wars”** fundraiser for the **Palm Valley Animal Society** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus.

Get Involved Fair
The **Center for Student Involvement** and the **Robert C. Vackar**

College of Business and Entrepreneurship will host a **Get Involved Fair** from noon to 2 p.m. in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. **Free food** will be served.

Speaker Series
Korean American **Chef Roy Choi** will be the guest lecturer for the Student Activities **Distinguished Speaker Series**, scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Choi is the founder of Kogi BBQ, a Korean Mexican taco truck, and co-host of the Netflix cooking series, **“The Chef Show.”** Admission is free, with priority seating for students, staff and faculty presenting their ID.

Wednesday The Queerspace Alliance
Texas Rising will host **“The Queerspace Alliance,”** where members and the community can **socialize, vent, bond, have fun and relax**, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Mesquite Room on the Edinburg campus. RSVP through V Link. **Free food** will be served.

Bible Study
Christians at RGV will

host a **Bible study** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Salón Jacaranda on the Brownsville campus. **Free pizza** will be served.

DIY Workshop
The **Student Union** and the **Campus Bookstore** will host **“DIY-CROP T-SHIRTS”** from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Campus Store on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday on the Edinburg campus. Participants must present a valid student ID.

Yoga
University Recreation offers **basic yoga** from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Thursday SOAR
The **ENACTUS** student organization will host a **training session on Sustainable Opportunities for Advancement and Recruitment** from 6:15 to 8 p.m. at Rio Grande Valley College, located at 5419 N. Cage Blvd. in Pharr. The program equips neurodivergent individuals with **workplace skills for summer internships** and members with **opportunities for mentoring**. For more

information, visit V Link.

Union Unplugged
The **Student Union** will host the band **RGV Jazz Collective** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the veranda on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Nov. 18 on the East Patio on the Edinburg campus. **Free s’mores** will be provided.

Basic Stretch
University Recreation offers a **beginner low-impact, low-intensity workout** from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 1 on the Edinburg campus.

Friday SGA Meeting
The **Student Government Association** will meet from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.111 on the Brownsville campus and via Zoom. ID: 867 6426 5405. **Students may present concerns or projects** to the senate by submitting a request form in person or through V Link at least 10 minutes before the meeting.

Pre-PA Society
The **Pre-Physician Assistant Society** will meet to discuss **upcoming events, PA application tips and participate in a skills workshop** from 3 to 4:45 p.m. in Health Affairs Building East Room 1.124 on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Vanessa Aguilar



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 1 and 5.

Nov. 1 12:28 p.m.: A student reported slipping on water on the floor in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The student sustained a minor injury to his left ankle but declined Emergency Medical Services. Facilities Services staff arrived to clean the area.

Nov. 2 7:22 a.m.: University Police officers observed decorations that could pose a safety hazard on the

Bronc Trail near the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus. A request was made to Facilities Services for their removal.

10:52 a.m.: A University Police officer responded to an emergency phone button activated at the Casa Bella pool on the Brownsville campus. Upon arrival, the officer spoke with a student who said her 11-year-old son had pushed the button

out of curiosity. **Nov. 4 11:46 a.m.:**

An incident of indecent exposure occurred in the men’s restroom of the Life & Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus. During the investigation, damage was also found to one of the stalls. The case is under investigation.

Nov. 5 2:08 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to

a non-affiliated man asking for money in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. Upon contact with the subject, the officer discovered the man had an extensive criminal background and issued him a criminal trespass warning. The officer escorted the man out of the premises.

3:53 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to a traffic collision involving a university vehicle near the Academic Support Facilities compound on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas



GOT NEWS?

TELL US ABOUT IT
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UTRGV engineers take on Anaheim

Students attend nation's largest gathering of Hispanic STEM professionals



PHOTO COURTESY JORGE E. VIDAL

Cadence Vaughan THE RIDER

Around 500 UTRGV students attended the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers National Convention from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3 in Anaheim, California. Many of the students were awarded travel funds by the College of Engineering and Computer Science to pay for costs to attend the conference. Hiram Moya, an associate professor for the department of Manufacturing and

Industrial Engineering and a faculty adviser of SHPE at UTRGV, said the convention is the premier conference for Hispanics in STEM and hosts one of the largest career fairs in the nation with over 300 companies and 15,000 attendees.

important to bring students together to network, to get

leadership skills," Moya said. "A lot of people get a lot of opportunities from the conference."

He said students can submit their resume to the company exhibitors to potentially be selected for job interviews or offers while

been able to secure a job offer from the conference," Moya said. "It's been a very rewarding experience for everybody that is attending." Diego Flores Chanez, an electrical engineering sophomore, attended the conference with a scholarship from the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Flores Chanez said he distributed his resume to several companies at the conference and received

"It is incredibly, incredibly important to bring students together to network, to get to know different leaders, to help them develop their own leadership skills."

--Hiram Moya, an associate professor for the department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering and a faculty adviser of SHPE at UTRGV

"It is incredibly, incredibly

to know different leaders, to help them develop their own

at the conference. "I know people that have

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ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

according to the Secretary of State election results website. Kaswan said it is possible that people want a more authoritarian government.

"One of the promises of democracy is the idea that it brings people together," he said. "And I think what people see is that democracy is dividing people. On that level, I think people are actually not as supportive of democracy as we might like to think."

Kaswan said Trump is a great salesman who knows how to change the minds of the people.

The political science professor said Trump is able to get "people to set aside their perception of reality and accept what that person is telling them."

"For whatever reason, they didn't feel like they could trust Kamala Harris, but they felt like they could trust Donald Trump," Kaswan said.

He said Harris' loss is due to multiple factors, including Biden's time in the presidency.

"Harris was unable to escape the unpopularity of Joe Biden," Kaswan said. "As Biden's vice president, there was no way she could shake that, or she didn't succeed in shaking that negative attitude toward the Biden administration."

Kiersey criticized the Democratic Party's strategy in recent years, referring to the "Chuck Schumer strategy" of trying to appeal to moderate Republican voters in the suburbs rather than focusing on their traditional base of blue-collar workers.

"What timeline are we in where Democrats abandon the working class, which is their traditional and historical bread and butter for votes,



Venisha Colón/THE RIDER

Election workers gather ballot boxes in a parking lot next to the Cameron County Courthouse Tuesday night in Brownsville.

and do it again and again, and not learn their lesson?" he said.

Kaswan said Congress was able to do a few big things during the beginning of Biden's administration.

"But, the Democrats are really bad at communicating their success," he said.

Kiersey said he questioned the party's decision to "parachute" Harris into the presidential slot without her being "battle tested" or "proven."

He criticized the Democratic Party for prioritizing rules and norms over substantive policy changes, citing the role of the Senate parliamentarian in blocking student debt relief and the failure to codify Roe v. Wade. He said these failures were due to a lack of political will, rather than

any insurmountable legal or constitutional barriers.

"They could have legislated Roe versus Wade, but they didn't do it," Kiersey said. "They didn't want to do it because they preferred to keep it alive, the political football."

He added that "Trump is a fairly vanilla conservative guy who used to be a New York Democrat."

"He's not anti-abortion," Kiersey said. "He's very much in favor of it. He triangulates a lot. He figures out where, you know, where the wind is blowing, and he tends to follow what his base wants."

Kiersey, who is an Irish citizen, said if he could vote in the U.S., he would have "been very tempted to vote for Trump" due to his interest "in the United States not getting

sucked into more wars."

Kaswan said with the final decision, radical changes in policy are to be expected.

"If you look at any of the reporting that's been done on Project 2025, I think you'll see," he said. "They'll at least try to pass a national ban on abortion and funding for the war in Ukraine."

Kaswan included that the Trump administration will attempt to limit many programs that provide support for the needy, such as Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

Kiersey also noted the Democratic Party's messaging on issues, such as the conflict in Gaza, was inconsistent, with the party running "ads that said the exact opposite" in different parts of

the country.

Regarding the Supreme Court, he suggested that Trump's appointments may be more moderate than expected.

"I think he understands that the abortion issue ... that the Dobbs [v. Jackson] decision, as it were, is nationally, very unpopular," Kiersey said. "This may be a controversial opinion, but I would expect that he would actually maybe appoint people who are traditional conservative justices, states rights justices, but ... they're not going to legislate a nationwide ban on abortion."

Regarding the political landscape in Texas, he noted the state is likely to "remain Texas," with the Republican Party continuing to challenge the federal government on issues, such as border policy. He suggested that the Supreme Court may not be as supportive of Texas' hard-line approach, but with a more pro-border-hardening president in office, that may change.

The professor also touched on the shifting political landscape in South Texas, where Republicans have made significant gains in the recent elections.

Kiersey attributed these shifts to the Democratic Party's failure to adapt to the diverse political interests within the Latino community.

He said that within the Democratic Party, there is a "notion of demographics as destiny, that the more diverse the American population becomes ... as the number of Hispanics in the country increases, the Democrats are destined to win. ... But what Trump has shown is that is completely false."

Welp, it's going to be an interesting Thanksgiving dinner.



11/11



How do you find balance between academic responsibilities and personal life?



"Just make sure you set a time aside. More importantly, just set aside [time] for your personal life. Don't feel like you have to miss out on going to certain events or hanging out with friends 'cause you have to study for this class or 'I'm gonna be too busy.' Of course, pay attention to your studies. But, you don't want to miss out on anything."

Mattias Mata
criminal justice sophomore

Sports: more than a game



Hugo A. Sepúlveda
THE RIDER

I have always liked sports: They are a unique form of entertainment that is not only about watching, but also about passion and the unique connection a fan makes with a team.

Some fans start following sports because they like a player or the team colors, but some keep building a connection to and passion for the sport.

I grew up with soccer as my favorite sport because everyone in my family likes it.

I had the dream that every kid has had at least once: becoming a professional soccer player. Obviously, while growing up, it just stayed as a dream as I focused on my education.

This didn't let me down as a fan of the sport. But as I grew up, my taste in sports also changed.

I started watching other sports—such as baseball, Formula 1 and football—that could catch my attention, but I had never given them the opportunity.

That is, until I started watching basketball.

I got into basketball because my father always talked about Michael Jordan and how he considers him the greatest basketball player ever.

This led me to watch some basketball games two or three years ago, and I got so deep into the sport that I started practicing it by myself and with friends.

I watched all of last year's NBA season. I followed the Golden State Warriors and the Dallas Mavericks.

I really like players such as Stephen Curry and Luka Dončić from these teams, but what caught my attention are the colors they use.

I grew up in Mexico where soccer is popular. You can see kids

playing soccer on every street.

My family's team is Cruz Azul, a team from the Liga MX (Mexican Soccer League). I follow the team because my dad always talked about how good the team was in the past.

Cruz Azul had not won the Mexican championship, Copa MX, for 23 years.

Fortunately, I got to see Cruz Azul win the cup in 2021. It was a special moment I shared with my family,

especially with my father.

I always think that in a moment of joy, what matters is not what happened but who you share it with.

My fanaticism for soccer is greater than for other sports because I like to watch other leagues from around the world, especially European teams.

Since I started watching European soccer, I have become a fan of teams from different countries and their soccer leagues: Borussia Dortmund from Germany, Olympique Lyonnais from France, Arsenal from England, Feyenoord from the Netherlands and FC Barcelona from Spain.

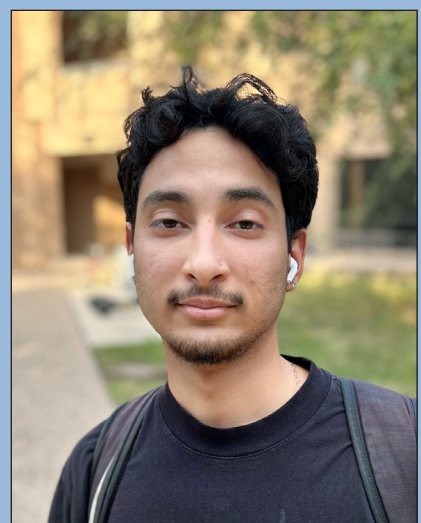
The Barcelona team is one of my favorite soccer teams. I have followed them since I was 13, when I got to know more about European soccer.

I have nostalgic memories of the first time I saw a game from this team, especially since I got to know about my favorite soccer player, Lionel Messi.

Sports are valuable because they allow people to be passionate and share moments of happiness with strangers who are also fans.

Being a sports fan has given me a front-row seat to great moments in my life, a connection with family and friends and a passion that will stay with me forever.

Sports are valuable because they allow people to be passionate and share moments of happiness with strangers who are also fans.



"Just the little hours that I have available—take advantage to study. Or, whenever I come to school and I don't have nothing to do for the rest of the day, I tend to finish my homework and everything that I need to do for school. And then, when I go home ... I can just do whatever I want for the rest of the day."

Maximiliano Meza
biology junior



"I study for five to 10 minutes, maybe every hour. Today, I have an exam. So, all day, I've been studying. And with my personal life, I usually like to do it in the afternoon, like, towards the night."

Natalee Pavón
biology freshman

VISIT US ONLINE AT UTRGVRIDER.COM TO PARTICIPATE

WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER TALK TO PLANTS OR CONTROL THE WEATHER?

TALK TO PLANTS	CONTROL THE WEATHER
36.36%	63.64%

--Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar

Campaña de alimentos por multas

Hugo A. Sepúlveda
THE RIDER

El departamento de Servicios de Transporte y Estacionamiento de UTRGV tendrán el programa *Kindness for Cans* hasta el viernes, donde los estudiantes podrán donar alimentos enlatados a cambio de la eliminación de una multa de estacionamiento.

Pablo Aguilar, director de Servicios de Estacionamiento, explicó que el propósito del programa es ayudar a los estudiantes que están pasando hambre o inseguridad alimentaria.

Aguilar dijo que el programa busca encontrar una manera de ayudar a los estudiantes a superar estos problemas, ya que las latas de comida recolectadas se donarán a la Despensa de Alimentos para Estudiantes de UTRGV.

“La Despensa de Alimentos para Estudiantes hace un trabajo maravilloso al proporcionar esto a los estudiantes durante todo el año”, dijo. “Y hay necesidad en cada área, en cada parte y en cada universidad”.

Aguilar dijo que el programa beneficiaría a los estudiantes que visitan la despensa de alimentos ya que se están donando recursos adicionales y está disponible en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg.

“En realidad, no hay límite para las donaciones o la eliminación de multas”, dijo.

Aguilar dijo que los estudiantes pueden donar 10 alimentos enlatados por cada multa eliminada más todos sus costos adicionales relacionados.

“Hemos tenido muchos estudiantes y, de hecho, también profesores y personal, que simplemente han donado porque están viendo esta iniciativa y han visto sus beneficios”, dijo.

Aguilar anima a los estudiantes a donar incluso si no tienen multa alguna.

Dijo que es el cuarto año de *Kindness for Cans* y se han recolectado alrededor

Se aceptan donaciones del 11 al 15 de noviembre



10 latas = 1 multa eliminada

KINDNESS FOR CANS

Los estudiantes con multas de estacionamiento pendientes pueden canjear alimentos enlatados aprobados por la eliminación de las infracciones de estacionamiento y los cargos por pagos atrasados.

- Verduras
- Atún
- Salchicha de Viena
- Spam
- Pollo
- Sopas
- Chili
- Jugo de frutas
- Frutas
- Frijoles
- Salsa de tomate

El punto de entrega se encuentra en las oficinas de Servicios de Transporte y Estacionamiento en ambos campus.

Más información en utrgv.edu/parking

Silvana Villareal/GRÁFICA RIDER

de siete toneladas de alimentos.

“Realmente ha marcado una diferencia con la cantidad de donaciones [...] y [yo] simplemente agradezco de antemano a las personas que van a participar porque realmente se hace un cambio”, Aguilar dijo.

Felipe Zamora, estudiante de último año de administración y asistente estudiantil de Servicios Auxiliares del Campus, dijo estar al tanto del programa *Kindness for Cans* y sus beneficios.

“Es un gran beneficio [...] porque todo vuelve a los estudiantes, ya sabes, más adelante”, dijo Zamora. “[...] Haré algunas donaciones también, todo lo que pueda hacer”.

Vivian Martinez, estudiante de primer año de ciencias de la salud integrada, dijo que aunque no conocía el programa, este beneficia a los estudiantes.

“Porque a veces, cuando intentas llegar a clase, simplemente te estacionas donde sea”, dijo Martinez. “[...] Entonces, creo que es realmente útil que tengan esto, para que [los estudiantes] puedan deshacerse de esa multa en particular”.

Dijo que está interesada en donar alimentos.

“Simplemente me gusta ayudar a la gente”, dijo Martinez. “[Es] parte de la razón por la que quiero ser enfermera”.

Los estudiantes pueden entregar sus donaciones en la oficina de Estacionamiento y Transporte de cada campus, ubicadas en el Academic Support Facility cuarto 135 en el campus de Edinburg y en el cuarto 1.101A de Vaquero Plaza en el campus de Brownsville.

Para obtener más información sobre cuáles alimentos enlatados se aceptan para donaciones y qué multas de estacionamiento califican para ser eliminadas, visite utrgv.edu/parking.
--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

Fiesta de elecciones



Silvana Villareal /FOTOS RIDER

Vicente Gonzalez, representante titular del Distrito 34 del congreso, es entrevistado por Alondra de Hoyos, reportera de Fox News Rio Grande Valley, durante su fiesta de espera el martes en el restaurante 1848 BBQ en Brownsville. Gonzalez fue desafiado por la republicana y exrepresentante Mayra Flores.



Espectadores en la fiesta de espera de Vicente Gonzalez, representante titular del Distrito 34 del congreso, esperan los resultados el martes en el restaurante 1848 BBQ en Brownsville.



Ralph McBurnett espera los resultados para el representante titular del Distrito 34 del congreso, Vicente Gonzalez, en una fiesta de espera organizada el martes por Gonzalez en el restaurante 1848 BBQ en Brownsville.

Students share, students care

CONFERENCE
Continued from Page 3

an interview offer from Cummins, which has been beneficial to his career.

“Getting an internship for engineering majors is crucial,” he said. “[Companies] expect you to have that experience, and that experience is not provided by the classes.”

Flores Chanez said he talked to many representatives from different companies and other engineering students from across the nation.

“Networking opens, like, a lot of opportunities,” he said.

Flores Chanez said he will definitely attend the next SHPE National Convention and encourages other students to do the same.

John Hinojosa, an electrical engineering sophomore, attended the conference with the help of a scholarship.

Hinojosa said he attended workshops, hospitality suites hosted by company recruiters and a career fair where he received an interview.

He believes meeting recruiters face-to-face is beneficial.

“A resume online application doesn’t say as much as the person itself,” Hinojosa said. “I think that’s what recruiters are more interested in than just my plain resume that doesn’t say the whole story.”

He said he would like to attend the next SHPE National Convention.

Hugo A. Sepúlveda
THE RIDER

UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services will have the Kindness for Cans program through Friday where students can donate food in exchange for a parking citation removal.

Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services, explained that the purpose of the program is to help students who are experiencing hunger or food insecurities.

He said the program seeks to find a way to help students through these issues as collected food cans will be donated to the UTRGV Student Food Pantry.

“The Student Food Pantry does a wonderful job with providing this year-round for students,” Aguilar said. “And there’s need, like, in every area, every part and every university.”

He said the program would benefit students that visit the food pantry since it is donating additional resources and is available for the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

“There is actually no limit on the donations or on the citation removals,” Aguilar said.

He said students can donate 10 canned-food items for each citation removal plus all of its fees.

“We have had many students and, actually, faculty and staff as well, just donate because they’re seeing this initiative and they’ve seen the

See **FOOD**, Page 8



10 cans = 1 citation removed

KINDNESS FOR CANS

Students with unpaid parking citations can exchange approved canned food for removal of parking violations and late fees.

- Vegetables
- Fruit juice
- Soups
- Fruits
- Vienna sausage
- Spam
- Chili
- Beans
- Tuna
- Chicken
- Tomato sauce

Drop-off located at the Parking and Transportation Services offices on both campuses.

Silvana Villarreal/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Commemorating the dearly departed



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Mission residents Parks and Recreation folkloric performers Fernando Nava (from left), Luis Canales and Alejandra Lopez perform Nov. 2 at the *Día de los Muertos* Festival at the Mission Historical Museum.



Framed photos of late organ donors are placed on the Donate Life altar at the *Día de los Muertos* Festival hosted Nov. 2 by the Mission Historical Museum.



The Mission Historical Museum invited guests to write the name of a late loved one on a card to add in the Remembrance Room at the *Día de los Muertos* Festival.

Review

Outstanding performance by the Symphonic Winds



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Master's Conducting Associate Bobby Salazar conducts the UTRGV Symphonic Winds Tuesday during a performance of Richard Wagner's "Trauermusik" in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. The Symphonic Winds' addition of brass in "Trauermusik" elevated the sound of the piece.

Daniela Chapa-Reyes
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Symphonic Winds performance was captivating throughout its concert Nov. 5 at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Conducted by UTRGV Director of Bands Jerianne Larson, they played amazing pieces throughout the performance, including "Canzona" by Peter Mennin, "Trauermusik" by Richard Wagner, Steampunk Suite by Erika Svano, "Lux Aeterna" by Ryan Fillinger and A Moorside Suite by Gustav Holst.

Master's Conducting Associate Bobby Salazar directed "Trauermusik," and did so splendidly. It was noticeable he was highly passionate and content being there.

Larson conducted her musicians intensely and beautifully. Their chemistry radiated off the stage and onto the audience. Their hours of practice and dedication paid off as everything ran smoothly and thoroughly.

Steampunk Suite,

containing "Charlie and the Mechanical Marching Man," "The Strange Case of Doctor Curie & Madam Hyde" and "Barnum and Tesla's Tandem Bicycle," stood out the most. It was full of suspenseful and whimsical tones, which really incorporated the sounds of 19th century steam-powered machinery.

The instruments intertwined with one another, creating wonderful, harmonious melodies that boomed throughout the auditorium. There should have been more people at the concert as it was worth attending. The audience was greatly appreciative of what it was hearing. They cheered after each piece and became louder as the concert came to a conclusion.

Larson was the right person to conduct these pieces as she was able to encapsulate what they represent and bring a sense of excitement. The concert created a comforting atmosphere while keeping the audience on the edge of their seat about what was to come next, which created a magical experience.



Master's Conducting Associate Bobby Salazar directs the UTRGV Symphonic Winds Tuesday during a performance of Richard Wagner's "Trauermusik" in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



Jerianne Larson, the director of Bands, conductor and professor of Music, leads the UTRGV Symphonic Winds during Steampunk Suite Tuesday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



What song or movie soundtrack represents the stage of life you are going through right now?



Angela Palomo
education junior

"[From] Toy Story 2, 'When [She] Loved Me' because someone left me right now."



Michael Bernard
music education junior

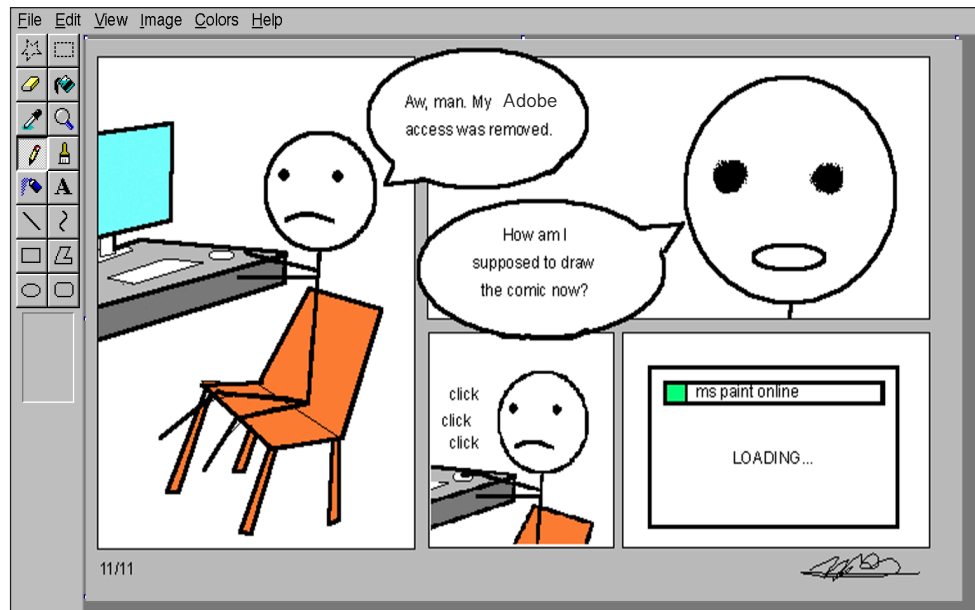
"'Y voy a ser feliz,' from Marisela. I love Marisela because I am 25 and so I am reaping the benefits of all the lessons that I've learned over the last five years and my early 20s."



Kassy Melendez
biology sophomore

"'Backslide,' by Twenty One Pilots, because right now, I think I'm going through kind of like a tough period. But at the same time, I feel like I have gotten so far ... so the song basically talks about not wanting to backslide into old habits."

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarreal



SUDOKU

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

Nov. 4 puzzle answer key:

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

FOOD
Continued from Page 6

benefits of it," Aguilar said. He encourages students to donate even if they do not have any outstanding citations.

Aguilar said it is the fourth year of the Kindness for Cans and they have collected about seven tons of food.

"It has really made a difference with the quantity of donations ... and [I] just thank the people that are going to participate beforehand because it really makes a change," he said.

Felipe Zamora, a management senior and student assistant in Campus Auxiliary Services, said he was aware about the Kindness for Cans program and its benefits.

"It's a great benefit ... because it all goes back to the students, you know, later on," Zamora said. "... I will make some donations as well, whatever I can do."

Integrated health science freshman Vivian Martinez said although she was not aware of the program, it benefits students.

"Because, sometimes, when you're just trying to get to class, you just park wherever," Martinez said. "... So, I think it's really helpful that they have this, so that [students] can get rid of that particular citation."

She said she is interested in donating food.

"I just like to help people," Martinez said. "[It is] part of the reason why I wanted to be a nurse."

Students can turn in their donations to the Parking and Transportation Services office on each campus, located at Academic Support Facility Room 135 on the Edinburg campus and Vaquero Plaza Room 1.101A on the Brownsville campus.

For more information about what canned food is accepted for donations and which parking tickets qualify for removal, visit utrgv.edu/parking.

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utrgvrider.com

IT TECH DAYS

BROWNSVILLE - 11/11, 11AM-1PM
PLAINSCAPITAL BANK
EL GRAN SALÓN

EDINBURG - 11/18, 11AM-1PM
UNIVERSITY BALLROOM

HARLINGEN - 11/22, 11AM-1PM
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BUILDING ROTUNDA

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Ready for the first kickoff

Ali Halloum

SPORTS REPORTER

Following the first practice in program history on Sept. 9, the UTRGV Football Team has continued its work to prepare for its inaugural season in Fall 2025.

The Vaqueros are in the midst of a practice season, developing players, getting them used to a full workload and forming a depth chart for the upcoming season.

UTRGV will play its first official NCAA Division I football game on Aug. 30, 2025, at home against the Sul Ross State University Lobos, according to Jonah Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for Communications and Championships.

Vaqueros head coach Travis Bush told The Rider the practices have “flown by” and the team has made a lot of progress in that span.

“This entire fall, from the moment these guys set foot [at UTRGV], we told them it’s gonna fly by and it has,” Bush said. “But a lot of progress [has been made]. That’s where we are.”

He said a big emphasis in this practice window was creating team culture, academic success and developing players on a roster consisting of 90% true freshmen.

“Doing a good job in the classroom was a big point, [as well as] building the foundation and the culture and, then, developing them out here on the field,” Bush said. “... We’ve been pleased with all the progress so far.”

He said this has been a “competitive fall” for UTRGV, with players rising and falling in the team’s depth chart. There are two remaining scrimmages for the fall.

One of the players climbing the depth chart is wide receiver Xayvion Noland. A redshirt freshman, Noland transferred from Texas State University and brings with him a year of Division



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Freshman quarterback Atzel Chavez Jr. prepares to throw the ball on the practice field at the Vaqueros Performance Center on the Edinburg campus.

I football experience.

Bush said players with previous experience, such as Noland, are standing out because they know the routine and bring a veteran presence both on the field and in the classroom. He called Noland one of the standout

players in the Vaqueros offense.

“He knows the offensive system, so [Noland has] done a phenomenal job,” Bush said. “[He’s] one of our leaders on offense and has had a really good fall so far.”

In an interview with The Rider, Noland said although most of the team is new to college football, they’re “progressing” as a unit and the team is “locked in and focused.”

“Everybody’s kinda new to this, but we’re all coming together as a team,” he said. “We’re bonding off the field and on the field.”

Something that has stood out to coach Bush through this process was seeing relationships forming among players and the coaching staff.

“The chemistry, the bonds you see between [the players], the friendships that have formed,” Bush said. “And the same thing with the coaching staff. So through this time, that’s been the biggest piece.”

Finally, what Bush wants the team to do was to “grow up,” saying that maturity and growth are important.

“We’ve got a lot of good, young guys,” he said. “But you look at the college level, and this game is played by men. We need men. We need some of these guys to grow into men quickly and, then, we need to, probably, need to add some men, some older guys to our roster here going into next fall.”

The Vaqueros will continue to run practices until the end of the semester. Afterward, they will enter a normal spring workload ahead of the inaugural kickoff against Sul Ross.



Redshirt freshman wide receiver Xayvion Noland leaps to catch the ball on the practice field at the Vaqueros Performance Center on the Edinburg campus.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

Juan Luis de Bethencourt Duque



COURTESY PHOTO

Juan Luis de Bethencourt Duque is a civil engineering senior from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, and a golfer for the UTRGV Men’s Golf Team. He was recently crowned champion of the Monterrey Collegiate Classic on Oct. 26, posting a three-round score of 203 and setting a program record. He was given Southland Conference Golfer of the Month honors for his efforts.

Q: Who or what got you started in golf?

A: “My father got me started in golf. I started when I was 4 years old and he stuck with me as the competition got harder and harder.”

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

A: “My father—he’s been with me through this. And also Rafael Cabrera-Bello. He’s a golfer from my hometown who was in the PGA Tour. ... His coach, when he started, was [also] my coach.”

Q: Who’s your favorite golf player?

A: “Jon Rahm. He’s a Spanish golfer and he’s pretty good. But I’m pretty open to favorites depending on their skills.”

Q: What practice drills help you the most?

A: “I like to look at the course ahead of a tournament because every course is different. Some are wider, some are narrower. But knowing and studying the course ahead of time helps me out.”

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: “Getting together with my friends and the people that I care about, having dinners and hanging out with the team. I also like working out.”

Q: What is your biggest motivation?

A: “To be better than I was before.”

Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?

A: “The people, the family, the environment—how everyone’s super close and super friendly.”

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: “Depends on which half. I would say in golf, keep getting better [because] I want to be the best player possible. And then, of course, academics, I want to graduate with my civil engineering degree.”

--Compiled by Ali Halloum

VOLLEYBALL

6:30 p.m. Thursday

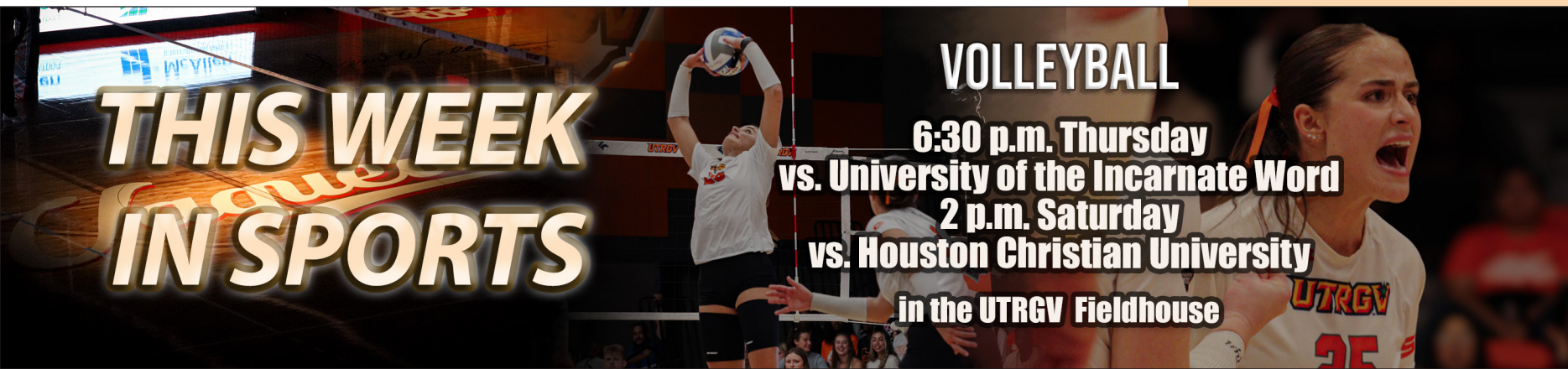
vs. University of the Incarnate Word

2 p.m. Saturday

vs. Houston Christian University

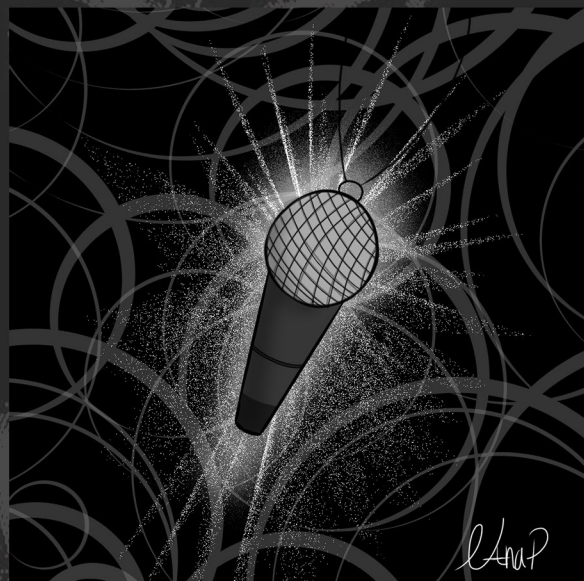
in the UTRGV Fieldhouse

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS



The Pendant of Justice

By: Ana Pacheco



I turned the doorknob and held a plate of food in my hands. In the community, we do not receive much food unless it is a holiday. However, I managed to bring some of my items. The plate held chopped tomatoes, sliced onions, a bowl of soup made with carrots, and fresh-squeezed apple juice. I walked in slowly and noticed he was asleep. I put the bowl down and went to wake him.

"Cygnus, I brought food. I made it myself." He opened his eyes and looked at me. He must have forgotten he was here.

"Sorry."

I was confused. "What?"

"Sorry for what I said yesterday." He replied fast and looked away. What was this change of attitude?

"Is it because I brought food?" I smiled a bit, and I was almost joking.

"No, I just realized you were right. You were a puppet of the governor as well. I thought you were part of them." I handed him the plate of food, and he received it. I thought of his words.

"I am associated with them. I am only trying to break from their power. It only takes so much for a human being to realize their freedom is gone." He smiled for the first time but then frowned again.

"My family is awake, but I do not want them to get hurt." His family?

"Are they merchants too? I will keep my end of the deal." I reassured him. He looked at my arm again until I realized he saw my bracelets.

"Why do you look here?" I caught him. He looked up and was probably wondering if he should turn from the truth or tell me.

"That microphone pendant, do you know what it means?" He pointed with his spoon from afar.

I thought about Mrs. Green and how she suddenly came into my room to gift me this pendant.

"I do not know. This pendant was a gift." He looked down and held his wrist. It showed the same microphone pendant.

"You must be the leader. How could I not see it before? You hold one of these every day on stage." He realized this and had a happy tone in his voice.

My mind was blank.

Leader? I wondered. I have not started anything.

"I do not follow." I looked at him, and he stood up to pace around the room.

"My family received these pendants from someone who told us a leader would rise with this symbol." He held up the pendant high for me to see.

I thought, A leader? I have one as well. The voice echoes in my head.

Mrs. Green's voice pounds in my head, "Always have this on you. It will protect you."

"That is humbling, but I was not informed about this when I received it. It must be someone else." I walked away, and for some reason, I felt his emotions saddened. I turned around, and he was now looking at the ground.

"Right." He fell back down on his space and said, "Sorry."

I felt sick to my stomach until I recovered myself and shuffled my way out of the room, no goodbyes or anything. I had gone to sleep that day thinking about this conversation. Sometimes, I looked to the sky and wondered. A firefly might shine as bright as the moon, but does it shine for itself or for an external source? All its light seemed to be behind its back. Is it not? Is it forced to shine for the

environment?

Today, I sensed an incident. I felt some emotion of danger but inspiration to explore it. Whatever it was or was not, it wanted my full attention. I considered escaping from my window. It was finally morning, and I had slept on these thoughts. I ought to try the window again. It should not hurt.

BANG!

I suddenly ducked into my area and realized it was broad daylight. I rushed to the back of my bed and waited for more sounds of terror.

SCREECH!

"Lady Wispa?" A voice called out.

"Mrs. Green?" I thought she left for spring last week.

"I am over here! What are those sounds?"

I walked towards her and realized no other sounds were rising. It must be some worker outside, but the sounds are near.

I noticed Mrs. Green did not respond to my greeting, and I turned to find her, searching my room.

"Mrs. Green? What are you looking for?"

She continued to pace around the room silently. She collected the pillowcases and placed them back when she did not find what she was looking for. Maybe she lost something in my room.

"I can help you look for it. What is it?" I asked.

She was quiet. She did mention a situation back at her home that was worrying her.

"Wispa?" She turned around and then went into my bathroom.

"I am here, Mrs. Green!" I called her out again, but she did not turn her head. I rushed to aid her in whatever I could, but a voice called and took me back in time.

One who must tell the truth will see the sun.

I looked to my left and started walking towards the mirror, but I did not see my reflection! I tried to grab my writing tools but could not pick them up. I stood there and looked through the mirror. The door screeched open. A girl with raven hair and golden eyes entered with a skeptical look. Her skin was olive, and her eyes were sharp.



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Connect, create, savor and celebrate McAllen hosts its first-ever RGV Asian Night Market



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER PHOTOS

McAllen's first RGV Asian Night Market partnered with over 60 vendors and food trucks Nov. 2 in Archer Park. Live entertainment was provided by Asian American performers.



Harlingen resident and owner of Pink Daisies Anh Altarac assists an attendee at the charm bar at McAllen's first ever RGV Asian Night Market Nov. 2 in Archer Park.



Orpheus Bloom, also known as McAllen resident Paolo Santiago, performs his original song "Tragedy" at the RGV Asian Night Market Nov. 2 at Archer Park in McAllen.



Moboba co-owner Tony Innouvong grills Lao street food at the RGV Asian Night Market Nov. 2 at Archer Park in McAllen.



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