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SPORTS

Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Freshman tight end Mateo Grajeda prepares to catch the football during UTRGV Football's first full-team practice Sept. 9 at the Richard R. Flores Stadium in Edinburg. *See story, Page 7.*



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER

Daddy Danny Ismael (in red shorts) wrestles opponent Nazil in a tag team match on Sept. 8 at the Landmark on Tower, located at 103 N. Tower Road in Alamo. "I went with 'Ismael' to honor my grandfather," who served in three wars, Daddy Danny Ismael said. *See story, Page 6.*

GROWING PAINS

UTRGV continues to expand with record-breaking enrollment

Pete Mendoza
THE RIDER

UTRGV hit a record enrollment of 34,194 students as of the Fall 2024 Census Day Sept. 11, according to a university official.

Census Day, the 12th class day, is when universities take a snapshot of current enrollment and send it to the state for reporting to receive an official report later.

Magdalena Hinojosa, senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, said there are 29,452 undergraduates, 4,439 graduate students and 303 School of Medicine students.

"At this point in time, when you're comparing Census Day numbers, though, we're 6.6% above last year," Hinojosa said.

She said for undergraduate students, there are 8,845 freshmen, 5,281 sophomores, 6,667 juniors and 8,093 seniors. There are also 566 postbaccalaureate students.

"So, I will tell you that I was surprised at our number of entering freshmen, which obviously has impacted

the overall number," Hinojosa said.

She said the university has a projection goal and a stretch goal for enrollment and uses orientations to measure the incoming freshman numbers.

do. And so, by that early June timeframe, it was like we're going to hit that 6,000, that 6,200."

Hinojosa said regional public institutions struggle with bringing in students from their own regions.

"I really feel this sense of us turning this transformational corner of us being looked at as UTRGV, as a top-notch university where you can get your degree, you can get your experience that our students deserve," she said.

The senior vice president said with the increase in enrollment comes an increase in classes and space.

"I know as orientations were coming on, Academic Affairs, in particular Dr. Jonikka Charlton with Student Success, was working very closely with our colleges to open more classes up," she said.

Integrated health science sophomore Cassandra Melendez said she enjoys seeing the university grow and looks for further improvements, especially parking.

"More students coming See ENROLLMENT, Page 2



Silvana Villarreal/THE RIDER

Students use a crosswalk in between classes Tuesday on the Brownsville campus.

"So, what we do is we open a certain number of orientations at a time," she said. "And as they fill up, then we open more. We had to open our July-August orientations much earlier than we ever

90 minutes of counterclaims

Natalie Lapsley
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Viewers, including over a dozen UTRGV students who gathered on campus for a watch party, tuned in Tuesday night to a 90-minute presidential debate filled with accusations, dodged questions and conflicting claims.

ABC News moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis asked Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump about their policies on the economy, reproductive rights and immigration.

Harris' plan for the economy focuses on building up young families, new businesses and the middle class.

Political science Professor Mark Kaswan said often, in political campaigns, candidates do not answer questions, but "we did get some detail from Kamala Harris."

"She talks about what she calls the 'opportunity economy,'" Kaswan said. "And, so, she talked about a tax credit ... of \$6,000 in the first year of a child's life. She talked about a home loan support \$25,000 subsidy for people who are first-time homebuyers, and



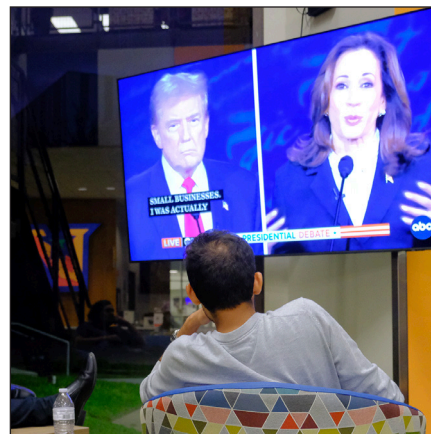
Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Accounting junior Emilio Oviedo (left) and criminal justice junior Ashley Ramirez watch the presidential debate Tuesday evening in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

she talks specifically about ... \$50,000 support for tax credit for small businesses."

Trump's plan for the economy is to impose tariffs on other countries.

"Other countries are going to finally, after 75 years, pay us back for all that we've done for the world," Trump said during the debate. "And the tariff will be substantial in some cases."



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Political science sophomore Eduardo Zapata watches the presidential debate Tuesday evening in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Kaswan clarified that tariffs are not paid by other countries, but by the companies importing goods.

"Those costs ... are then passed on to consumers," he said. "That was, basically, the only economic thing that he talked about."

Political science Assistant Professor Andrew Smith said the See DEBATE, Page 8

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

OCT. 7

Visit sos.state.tx.us for more information

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 Last day to withdraw
Today is the **last day to withdraw from classes** and receive a **50% refund** for Fall 2024.

Orbiting Opportunities
The Career Center is hosting **“Orbiting Opportunities: The Mechanics of Career Fair Success”** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Building Room 121 on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of **Career & Internship Prep Week**, which runs through Friday.

Lotería
The **Student Union** will host a **Lotería** at 1 p.m. in La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

Tuesday Interview Skills
The **Career Center** will host **“Interview Skills for**

Astronomical Success” from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.402 on the Brownsville campus and in the Dining & Ballroom Complex Bronc Room on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of **Career & Internship Prep Week**.
Join LUCHA
La Unión Chicana de Hijxs de Aztlán (Mexican Studies Club) will conduct its **first meeting** at 1 p.m. in Education Complex Room 1.506 on the Edinburg campus. Members will discuss their strong sense of *familia*, embrace of one’s self and power to create change.

Wednesday Study Abroad Fair
The **Office of the Provost** will host a **Study Abroad Fair** where students, faculty and staff are invited to learn about short-term summer

programs offered abroad. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Cosmic Branding
The **Career Center** will host **“Cosmic Branding: Shaping Your Professional Image”** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus and in Mathematics & General Classrooms Room 2.210 on the Edinburg campus. The event is part of **Career & Internship Prep Week**.

Thursday Volunteer Fair
The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **Volunteer Fair** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Music, Science and Learning Center Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Students can

meet representatives of local nonprofits and student organizations, explore opportunities and learn about **Engagement Zone**.

Friday Boxing Training
University Recreation offers **boxing classes** in which students and members will deliver **jab, cross, hook and uppercut combinations** from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in UREC Studio 2 on the Edinburg campus.

Saturday Art exhibit
“El Dorado Despejado,” an exhibit featuring the work of **Julia Santos Solomon**, a Dominican-American multimedia artist, will open with a reception at 6 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. The exhibit is part of the **College of Fine Arts Distinguished Artist Series**.

--Compiled by Vanessa Aguilar

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 3 and 9.

Sept. 3 7:17 p.m.: An officer responded to a report of an unattended vehicle being struck in Lot E-19 on the Edinburg campus. University Police officers reviewed camera footage and discovered the vehicle had arrived on campus with some of the damage reported. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 4 12:58 p.m.: A university employee found a vape pen containing a yellow liquid on the ground outside the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The pen was seized, and it tested positive for THC. The case is under investigation.

5:05 p.m.: University Police responded to a disturbance between two students in Lot E-12 on the Edinburg campus. Upon arrival, a student reported that her ex-boyfriend, who is also a student, had been harassing her and had assaulted her earlier by making unwanted physical contact. The man

was identified and released since the woman decided not to file charges.

8:45 p.m.: A female student reported feeling uncomfortable after encountering a student acquaintance multiple times in public and suspects he may be following her. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 5 8:30 a.m.: A student reported a stray dog in parking Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. Animal control later arrived on scene and took custody of the dog.

12:58 p.m.: An officer responded to a fire alarm in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management cleared the building for reentry.

6:20 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to a report of a suspicious person inside the UTRGV Center for Innovation and Commercialization in Weslaco. The individual had left the area before the officer arrived.

Sept. 7 10:22 a.m.: An employee

on the Edinburg campus reported receiving a scam email from an unknown person. The sender requested money in exchange for not sending personal photos of her to family members and friends. The employee said she had never sent anyone any personal photos of herself. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 9 1:04 p.m.: An officer responded to a student who was observed attempting to make a knife out of a stick and broken glass in the Math and Science Academy on the Edinburg campus. Further investigation revealed the student only wanted to see if a knife could be made with the items and did not intend to use the knife to cause any harm to himself or other students. The items were confiscated and submitted for destruction.

1:53 p.m.: An officer was flagged down by an individual due to a smell of gas emanating from a nearby pipe in Lot B-2 on the Brownsville campus. Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management

determined the area to be safe.

5:07 p.m.: The Edinburg Police Department notified University Police of a man who was walking with a rifle near campus. After further investigation, an Edinburg police officer contacted the man east of the Hidalgo County Courthouse, according to UTRGV Assistant Chief of Police Esmeralda Guerra. The man said he was exercising his Second Amendment rights, and the officer confirmed the man was not a threat to the public. Review of camera footage confirmed the man never entered the Edinburg campus.

5:55 p.m.: A University Police officer responded to a report of a stray cat on the roadway near Lot E-5 on the Edinburg campus. The cat was later released at a safe location.

6:01 p.m.: An officer observed a student riding her bike on the covered walkway on the Edinburg campus. The student was identified and informed of the policy, which prohibits personal transportation devices on the Bronc Trail.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas

ENROLLMENT *Continued from Page 1*

into university is a really good thing ... even though it was a little annoying for some people on the first day,” Melendez said. “It was really packed, and the parking spaces—we’re going to need more of those, for sure. But, either way, it’s a good thing that more people are enrolling.”

Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services, said students can use the remote parking lots available.

“[The VOLT service] would take you as close as you possibly can to your building or somewhere in that area,” he said.

“I’m not sure about this semester, but we’re consistently looking at opportunities to expand our presence to offer students the best and most convenient way of doing their parking and transportation at the university,” he said.

Aguilar said students also have access to VOLT electric carts that provide transportation from remote parking lots.

“[The VOLT service] would take you as close as you possibly can to your building or somewhere in that area,” he said.



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Correction: The Sept. 9 installment of “Living the Arts” was missing the question. The question was, “What was your favorite childhood toy?”

‘Keeping Families Together’ in limbo

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

The 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals has set an oral argument for Oct. 10 in a lawsuit filed against the Biden administration regarding Keeping Families Together, a process that provides a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants married to U.S. citizens.

“The district court has entered an administrative stay, expiring September 23, of the defendants’ proposed action and has set a hearing and possible trial for September 18,” the appeals court stated Wednesday.

Shortly after the appeals order, the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Texas filed a notice stating the “September 18, 2024 hearing and trial setting is canceled and that all unexpired deadlines in the court’s scheduling order are stayed.”

The temporary hold on Keeping Families Together is leaving more than half a million people in “a legal limbo waiting,” a Harlingen immigration attorney said.

Today is the deadline for each side’s response to the other side’s omnibus motion.

Attorney Aimeé A. Treviño said KFT is applicable for families with “mixed immigration status.”

“Someone’s a U.S. citizen [and] someone’s not,” Treviño said. “And it’s focused on the spouses of a U.S. citizen and their children. So, if you are undocumented, you don’t have a ... legal immigration status and you’re married to a U.S. citizen and you’ve been in the U.S. for 10 years, as of June [17] of 2024, you would have been eligible to apply for this process.”

Sixteen Republican-led states sued the Biden administration on



Aug. 23, claiming the KFT program “incentivizes illegal immigration and will irreparably harm the Plaintiff States.”

On Aug. 19, the Department of Homeland Security announced Keeping Families Together, a process for certain noncitizen spouses and noncitizen stepchildren of U.S. citizens to request Parole in Place.

Parole in Place is an expansion of KFT. Previously, PIP was available only to undocumented family members of U.S. military personnel, veterans and enlistees to stay in the U.S. legally.

The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Texas Tyler Division, was led by Texas and supported by Idaho, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming.

“Under Joe Biden and Kamala

Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Harris, the federal government is actively working to turn the United States into a nation without borders and a country without laws,” Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton stated in an Aug. 23 news release. “This violates the Constitution and actively worsens the illegal immigration disaster that is hurting Texas and our country.”

The 56-page suit states Texas spends significant amounts of money providing services to paroled and “illegal aliens” because of “the federal government’s violations of and refusal to enforce federal law.”

“These include education, healthcare, and many other social services,” the suit states. “Federal law requires Texas to include paroled and illegal aliens in some of these programs. As the number of paroled and illegal aliens in Texas increases, the number of paroled and illegal

See MARRIAGE, Page 8

University Police: Stop, look both ways

Rebeca Salinas
COPY EDITOR

University Police advises the campus community to be aware of personal transportation policies following a traffic collision Sept. 4 involving a student.

The collision occurred around 6 p.m. at the intersection of Sugar Road and Schunior Street in Edinburg when a student rode a scooter into the crosswalk as a vehicle was making a right turn onto Schunior Street.

The Edinburg Police Department had already arrived on the scene and investigated the traffic collision prior to the arrival of University Police. Emergency medical services transported the injured student to a hospital.

University Police did not handle the investigation for the case.

“I think it is important for our community to be aware that just because they are entering a crosswalk, for their own safety, it is always important to stop, look both ways, and make sure vehicles see them,” said Esmeralda Guerra, assistant chief of the UTRGV Police Department. “I think it’s important even though it’s at a traffic light and they might have ... the little pedestrian sign that says you have 10 seconds to cross. It is always good to stay aware of your surroundings.”

Guerra advised not to be looking at cell phones or be busy talking on the phone before and while crossing the street because drivers could also be distracted.

According to the UTRGV Personal Transportation Riding Devices policy, individuals using a personal transportation riding device should dismount and walk across all designated crosswalks. People should also dismount in areas that “present heightened risk of personal injury,” including heavy pedestrian traffic and construction zones.

¡VIVA EL FOLKLÓRICO! Dance group graces the stage with tradition and culture



Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Members of the Ballet Folklórico at UTRGV defy gravity as they dance to the traditional state of Nuevo León dance in “Leyendas” Sept. 7 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



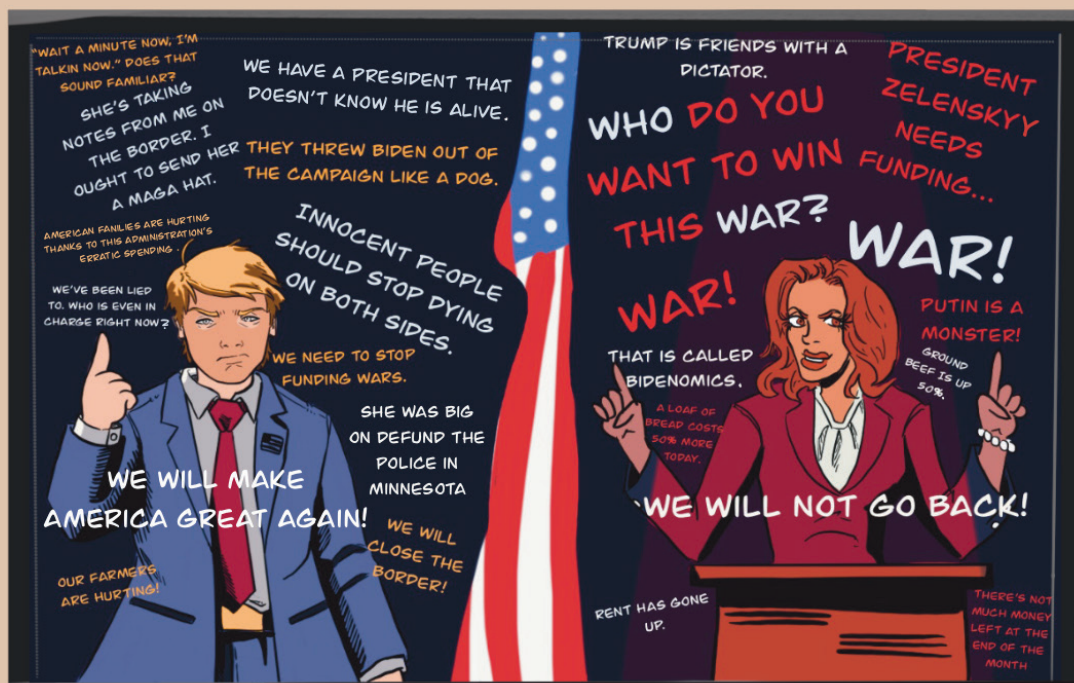
Alumni of the Ballet Folklórico at UTRGV dance to a corrido during the performance of “Leyendas” Sept. 7 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. “This is like the ‘dream team’ because they were ... superstars in [their time],” said Miguel Peña, director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico. “... I’m gathering all the legends. ... That’s why it’s called ‘Leyendas.’”



Members of the Ballet Folklórico at UTRGV, dressed in the traditional charro costume of Jalisco, Mexico, perform in “Leyendas” Sept. 7 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. “The audience not only enjoys what they see but also learns about their roots,” said Miguel Peña, director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico.



Members of the Ballet Folklórico at UTRGV dance in traditional folklorico costumes from the state of Jalisco, Mexico, during the performance of “Leyendas” Sept. 7 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.



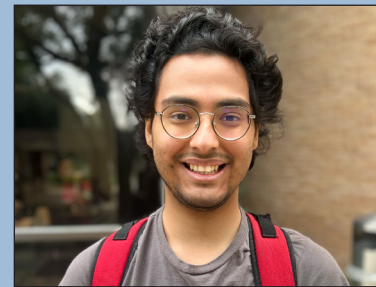
Well, it seems like the military-industrial complex and big pharma are financing a certain someone...

09.16

ASH HINOJOSA DÍAZ



What do you think about the presidential candidates and their running mates?



"For Donald Trump ... I think he is too far to the right. As for Kamala, I think we still need to hear more about what she believes in and what she wants to do. We still have about two more months to decide, so I kinda lean to Kamala but I am still a little hesitant. ... I don't really like JD Vance, and I really like Tim Walz."

Homero Palacios
political science senior



"I think they both have really good points on both sides. I also think they both can do better. As for being in office, I do think that the vice presidents they have chosen are probably better than what we have had recently, but I do think there needs to be major change on both hands."

Sarah Saenz
communication sciences and disorders junior



"Personally, I don't like Trump. I think he is too racist, but Kamala Harris seems OK. I think I would go for Kamala Harris, for sure."

Nicole Reyna
history sophomore

--Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar

Rethink internalized fatphobia



Viviana Infante
COPY EDITOR

Many of the times I think about what and where I want to eat, I wonder how the food I enjoy will affect my weight gain.

This was rarely a question I thought of until after I turned 20. I noticed many pieces of my clothing were tight-fitting, and I did not think this would be the beginning of insecurities surrounding my body.

Around the same time I became aware of this, I heard comments like, "You thought you would be skinny forever?" This led to negative, subconscious thoughts about my physical appearance.

A while after, it prompted me to reflect on this inner critic and practice body neutrality.

During this time, I realized how I had deep-internalized fatphobia, which led to learning how to unlearn what our thin-obsessed Western society had taught me.

I further reflected on the topic of fatphobia when I read about the

recent feud between rappers and former friends Ice Spice and Cleotrapa. Cleotrapa, who was invited last minute to be an opening act on Spice's recent tour, alleged Spice's team said Cleo was not "part of the budget" for a chicken salad.

The claim was one of several, and Spice took to X Spaces to respond. When addressing the chicken salad incident, Spice said the two actually went to an Italian restaurant and called Cleo "a f--king vacuum" to emphasize the way she ate while they were there.

In complete honesty, I was not too surprised when Spice said this, as

much of her discography contains shallow lyrics, and much of her brand focuses on the marketable body standard for women of color.

I am not sure if Spice took a jab at Cleo's weight with her remark, but Cleo took it as that, and so did I. I find it hypocritical of Spice since she recently lost weight, and her comment stresses the normalization of fatphobia.

Out of curiosity, I researched the origins of the link between fatphobia and anti-Black racism—a subject I knew limited information about. I stumbled upon information from the book "Fearing the Black Body: The

Racial Origins of Fatphobia" by Sabrina Strings, a professor and North Hall Chair of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In an NPR interview, where Strings spoke about her discoveries, she highlights how during the Atlantic Slave Trade, "eating and body size became two of the characteristics that were being used" to differentiate between who was and was not free, as biracial identities began to emerge.

Reading this, and looking at modern-day fatphobia, with terms such as "big back" trending on social media, makes me perceive the current,

unrealistic thin body standards placed on women in a completely different way.

So, from this, I definitely encourage people to rethink the stigma around fatness and reflect on the consequences of fatphobia.

Fat is not equivalent to inferior and unhealthy, as no one knows the whole story of a person's medical, environmental and health history.

As for myself, I continue to separate my own sense of worth from my weight. I am a writer, musician, sister, daughter and other identities—not a Eurocentric body standard.

"Fat is not equivalent to inferior and unhealthy, as no one knows the whole story of a person's medical, environmental and health history."

STAY CONNECTED



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WACKY WEB POLL

Would you rather pause your life or fast-forward through it?



'Keeping Families Together' en limbo



Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El 5to Circuito de Apelaciones de Estados Unidos ha fijado una audiencia oral para el 10 de octubre en una demanda presentada contra la administración de Biden con respecto a *Keep Families Together*, un proceso que ofrece un camino hacia la ciudadanía para inmigrantes indocumentados casados con ciudadanos estadounidenses.

"El tribunal de distrito ha dictado una suspensión administrativa, que expira el 23 de septiembre, de la acción propuesta por los acusados y ha fijado una audiencia y un posible juicio para el 18 de septiembre", declaró el tribunal de apelaciones el miércoles.

Poco después de la orden de apelación, el Tribunal de Distrito de Estados Unidos del Distrito Este de Tejas presentó un aviso que indicaba que "la audiencia y el juicio del 18 de septiembre de 2024 se cancelan y que todos los plazos no vencidos en la orden de programación del tribunal se suspenden".

La suspensión temporal de *Keep Families Together* está dejando a más de medio millón de personas en "un limbo legal a la espera", dijo una abogada de inmigración de Harlingen.

Hoy vence el plazo para que cada lado responda a la moción general.

La abogada Aimeé A. Treviño dijo que KFT es aplicable para familias con "estatus migratorio mixto".

"Alguien es ciudadano estadounidense [y] alguien no", dijo Treviño. "Y está enfocado en los cónyuges de un ciudadano estadounidense y sus hijos. Entonces, si usted es indocumentado, no tiene un [...] estatus migratorio legal y está casado con un ciudadano estadounidense y ha estado en los EE.UU. durante 10 años, a partir del [17] de junio de 2024, habría sido elegible para solicitar este proceso".

Dieciséis estados liderados por republicanos demandaron a la

administración de Biden el 23 de agosto, alegando que el programa KFT "incentiva la inmigración ilegal y dañará irremediablemente a los estados demandantes".

El 19 de agosto, el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional anunció el programa *Keep Families Together*, un proceso para que ciertos cónyuges no ciudadanos e hijastros no ciudadanos de ciudadanos estadounidenses soliciten *Parole in Place*.

Parole in Place es una expansión de KFT. Anteriormente, PIP estaba disponible solo para familiares indocumentados de personal militar

dinero en brindar servicios a extranjeros en libertad condicional e "ilegales" debido a "las violaciones del gobierno federal y su negativa a hacer cumplir la ley federal".

"Estos incluyen educación, atención médica y muchos otros servicios sociales", de acuerdo con la demanda. "La ley federal requiere que Tejas incluya a los extranjeros en libertad condicional e ilegales en algunos de estos programas. A medida que aumenta el número de extranjeros en libertad condicional e ilegales en Tejas, también aumenta el número de extranjeros en libertad condicional e ilegales que reciben dichos

Abigail Ollave / GRÁFICA RIDER

visión de los dieciséis estados es reducir la inmigración.

"Por lo tanto, la actitud de los [dieciséis] estados es que el presidente Biden está yendo más allá de lo que se le permite hacer bajo la Ley de Inmigración [y Nacionalidad]", dijo Smith. "[...] Dado el hecho de que muchos de los estados involucrados en esta demanda han sido muy críticos con la política de inmigración de la administración de Biden, se puede argumentar que la realidad es que esto es solo una continuación de su deseo de reducir la inmigración a los Estados Unidos".

Para calificar para KFT, los cónyuges no ciudadanos de ciudadanos estadounidenses deben estar físicamente presentes en los EE.UU. sin admisión legal o libertad condicional desde al menos el 17 de junio de 2014, tener un matrimonio legalmente válido con un ciudadano estadounidense al 17 de junio de 2024 o antes, no tener antecedentes penales descalificatorios y presentar datos biométricos para verificación de antecedentes.

Los hijastros no ciudadanos de ciudadanos estadounidenses deben ser solteros y menores de 21 años a partir del 17 de junio de 2024, también estar en los EE.UU. sin admisión legal o libertad condicional, tener un padre no ciudadano que haya estado legalmente casado con un ciudadano estadounidense antes de que el hijastro cumpla 18 años, no tener antecedentes penales descalificatorios y presentar datos biométricos para verificación de antecedentes.

A pesar de la suspensión, el Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos seguirá aceptando solicitudes de inmigrantes elegibles.

Para aplicar, hay una tarifa de \$580, presentar una solicitud detallada, una explicación sobre la libertad condicional humanitaria y una larga lista de documentos adicionales necesarios.

Para obtener más información sobre KFT, visite uscis.gov.

"La suspensión temporal de *Keep Families Together* está dejando a más de medio millón de personas en 'un limbo legal a la espera'".

- Abogada Aimeé A. Treviño

estadounidense, veteranos y reclutas para permanecer en los EE.UU. legalmente.

La demanda, presentada en el Tribunal de Distrito de los EE.UU. del Distrito Este de Tejas División Tyler, fue liderada por Tejas y apoyada por Idaho, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Luisiana, Misuri, Dakota del Norte, Ohio, Carolina del Sur, Dakota del Sur, Tennessee y Wyoming.

"Bajo Joe Biden y Kamala Harris, el gobierno federal está trabajando activamente para convertir a Estados Unidos en una nación sin fronteras y un país sin leyes", dijo el Fiscal General de Tejas Ken Paxton en un comunicado el 23 de agosto. "Esto viola la Constitución y empeora activamente el desastre de la inmigración ilegal que está perjudicando a Tejas y a nuestro país".

La demanda de 56 páginas aclara que Tejas gasta cantidades significativas de

servicios".

Según la administración de Biden, KFT "protegerá aproximadamente a medio millón de cónyuges de ciudadanos estadounidenses y aproximadamente 50,000 niños no ciudadanos menores de 21 años cuyo padre [o madre] está casado con un ciudadano estadounidense".

"Sabemos que más de 11 millones de personas viven actualmente indocumentadas aquí en el país", dijo Joaquín García, director de organización de La Unión del Pueblo Entero. "Y por lo tanto, esta es una población muy pequeña que se beneficiará. Pero, si es permanente, entonces nuevamente esas 500,000 personas seguirán en el limbo, y su futuro seguirá siendo incierto porque han estado esperando una oportunidad como esta durante mucho tiempo".

Andrew Smith, profesor asistente de ciencias políticas en UTRGV, dijo que la

The art of professional wrestling

Eduardo Escamilla
A&E REPORTER

A captivating blend of athleticism and theatrics, New Breed Wrestling's unique appeal lies in its ability to elicit pathos in audiences, drawing them into the passionate rivalries and petty feuds within the world of professional wrestling.

"Pro wrestling is, like, a combination of sports [and] entertainment," said New Breed Wrestler Daniel Galvan, who performs under the moniker Daddy Danny Ismael. "... The goal is to tell a good story. ... It's kind of like sports meets theater. ... It's very physical, it's very demanding, but at the end of the day, our goal is to entertain people."

McAllen resident Danny Chance, his wife Demmae Selena Mendoza and his brother Ramon Valdez took over the then-called Wrestling Revolution. They eventually rebranded the league by changing the name to New Breed Wrestling but kept core events, such as "Hardcore Horror."

Along with his promotion, storyline writing and booking duties, Chance is the head trainer at New Breed School of Wrestling LLC located at 304 E. Pecan Blvd. in McAllen. He said he is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of wrestling talent.

Chance said he finds great satisfaction in helping aspiring wrestlers overcome fears and develop the skills needed to succeed in the ring.

"I love seeing them watching behind the curtain," he said. "They're super nervous. ... They want to throw up. ... And there I am, just like, 'You'll be fine.' ... So, when they go out there, all that nervousness, like, literally just goes away ... and then they're in character. I love seeing that."

The wrestling league offers free matches every Sunday during September at The Landmark on Tower,



Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER PHOTOS

In a rage, Jonathan Douglas pins down Iggy Trip in a last-man-standing match, where the loser leaves New Breed Wrestling for good Sept. 8 at The Landmark on Tower, located at 103 N. Tower Road in Alamo.



"Let's go, JD," the crowd shouts as Jonathan Douglas grabs Iggy Trip and smashes him through a table. "Look at me and look at you—we're covered in blood!" Douglas said. "I love you, I don't want to do this. Stop!" The two competed in a last-man-standing match on Sept. 8 at The Landmark on Tower, located at 103 N. Tower Road in Alamo. Trip lost the match.

located at 103 N. Tower Road in Alamo. This makes the art form accessible to the community and introduces a new generation to the thrill of the sport through high-

level stunts and theatrical storytelling.

"Pro wrestling can provide a really great experience for people in this day and age where we're always on our



Keke Caballero flips over his opponent Ulysses "El Tóxico" Garcia during a match promoted by New Breed Wrestling on Sept. 8 at The Landmark on Tower, located at 103 N. Tower Road in Alamo.

phones, always on social media, always looking down," Galvan said. "... You come out here with your family, and you just engage in real See **WRESTLING**, Page 8



What are you most excited to wear for the fall season?



Seven Parrish
art education junior
"oversized blazer"



Leyah Juárez
music education freshman
"layered outfits" and "long skirts"



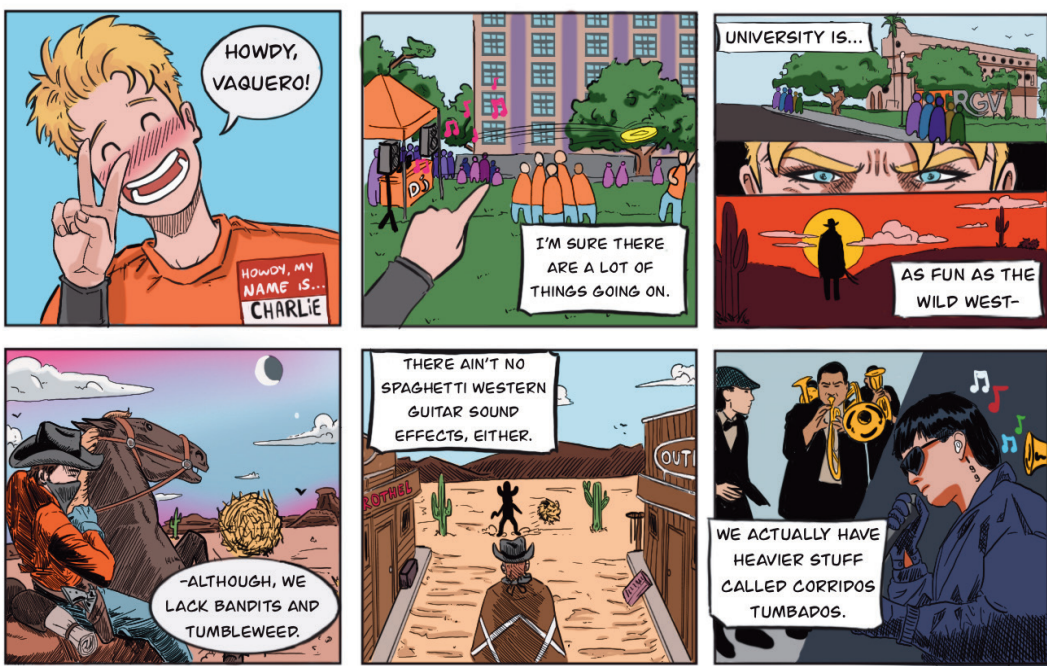
Jeanette Alba
theatre sophomore
"chrome and studs"



Zirah Mora
integrated health science
freshman
"sweaters, knitted sweaters"

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarreal

09.16.24 **A rough guide to your first semester (Part 1 of 3)** ASH HINOJOSA DÍAZ



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Illana De Asis



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Illana De Asis, a kinesiology senior from Chapadao do Ceu, Brazil, is an outside hitter for the UTRGV Volleyball Team. She was recently named the Southland Conference Offensive Player of The Week after her performance in three games at the Zips/Cleveland State University Invitational in Ohio, tallying 63 kills and 32 digs on .302 hitting.

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I can play many sports, and I can play a little bit of guitar."

Q: Who or what got you started in volleyball?

A: "I'm from a small town in Brazil. ... My mom was like, 'You have to play something. You can't be just in the house all day.' So, I started to do something because I started [school] in the morning and in the afternoon, I stayed home, so I was just playing with my dog. ... I was upset because I had nothing to do. And then, my friends put me on sports. I started with soccer, but my mom didn't like it because I got hurt every time, so I played volleyball."

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

A: "I [wanted] to be like [Gabriela 'Gabi' Guimarães]. She's an outside [hitter] from Brazil. She's like my height and she's very good. In volleyball, you have to be tall. So, I was like, 'I can't play pro.' But, then, I saw her and I wanted to be like her."

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

A: "I do like country."

Q: Any shows or movies you like to watch?

A: "[Facing the Giants,] that's my favorite movie."

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: "I do play soccer and tennis and padel. We have a [padel] club here in McAllen."

Q: What is your biggest motivation?

A: "I think since I was a kid and I'm short, my parents forced me to go and study. When [I saw that] I could do both, it was perfect because I was about to stop playing volleyball. So, I'm motivated to finish my senior year good and have a degree."

Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?

A: "The community. ... When I got here, everybody was nice and everybody is helping each other. And I like that."

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: "My biggest goal now is [to] finish strong this season and finish my degree and be able to look later in life and say, 'I did that.' It feels good."

--Compiled by Ali Halloum

Football takes the field

Ali Halloum

SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Football Team held its first full-team practice in program history Sept. 9 in front of a crowd of 2,478 at the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District's Richard R. Flores Stadium.

This marks the first time the Vaqueros stepped onto a football field as a complete unit. The team broke out into separate groups, conducting several practice exercises, including 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 drills.

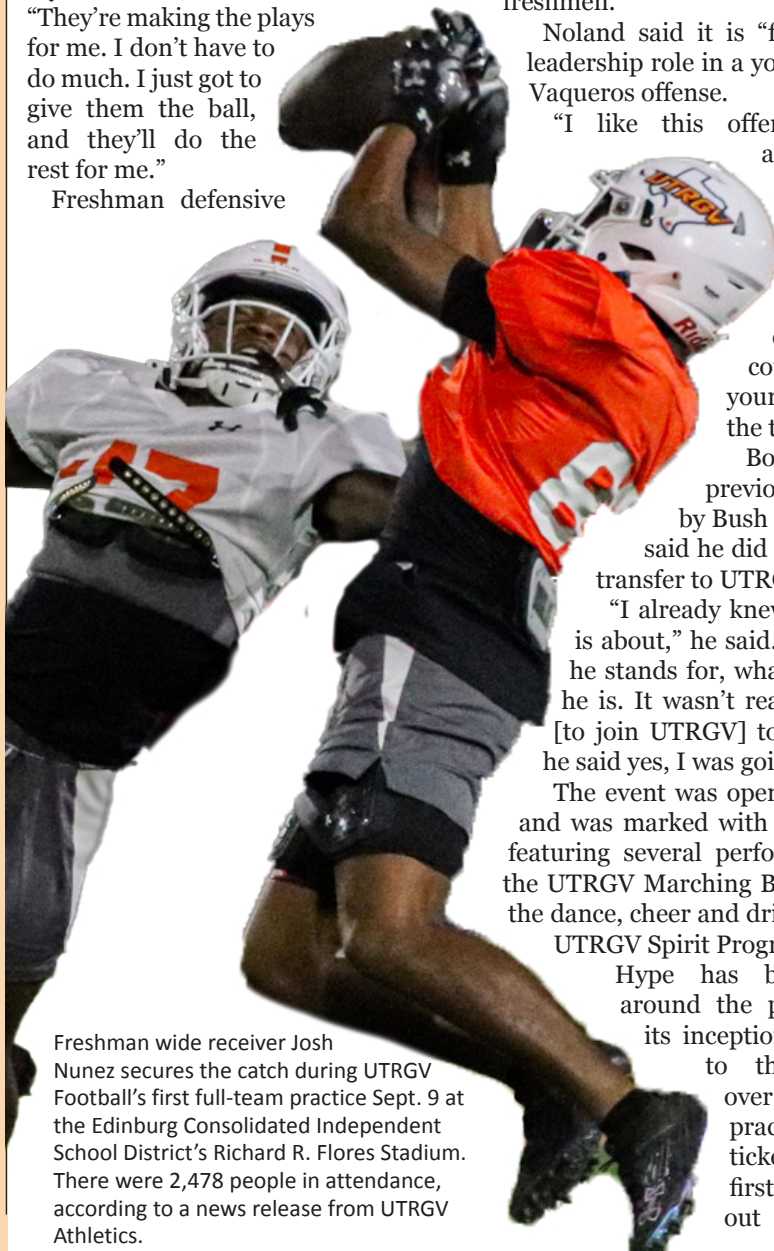
Travis Bush, UTRGV Football head coach, said that, similar to the start of the University of Texas at San Antonio's football program in 2011, the practice year was to help the program develop players and team cohesion before kickoff in 2025.

"The way we're structuring practices focuses on our player development piece right now," Bush said. "[We're] working on building these young men and building that chemistry in the locker room. ... [I'm] excited to see what the next couple of months have to produce."

In a news conference after the practice, freshman quarterback Aidan Jakobsohn said he thought the whole team was "firing on all cylinders," particularly praising the efforts of the offensive line and wide receivers.

"I want to thank my o-line [and] my receivers," Jakobsohn said. "They're making the plays for me. I don't have to do much. I just got to give them the ball, and they'll do the rest for me."

Freshman defensive



Freshman wide receiver Josh Nunez secures the catch during UTRGV Football's first full-team practice Sept. 9 at the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District's Richard R. Flores Stadium. There were 2,478 people in attendance, according to a news release from UTRGV Athletics.



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Freshman running back Jamal Polley warms up with the team during UTRGV Football's first full-team practice Sept. 9 at the Richard R. Flores Stadium in Edinburg.

back Marcus "MJ" Heard Jr. said the defense, which forced a couple of takeaways during team drills, was "young and progressing."

"I think tonight we took a positive step in the right direction as a D unit," Heard said. "[The mentality is getting] 1% better, be better than you were yesterday."

Bush hopes second-year transfers, such as linebacker Ian Box and wide receiver Xayvion Noland, will bring leadership and Division I experience to a Vaqueros roster mainly consisting of freshmen.

Noland said it is "fun" to play a leadership role in a young and quick Vaqueros offense.

"I like this offense; it's fast and action-packed," Noland said. "And I'm glad that I've got some experience I could show some younger guys on the team."

Box, who was previously coached by Bush in high school, said he did not hesitate to transfer to UTRGV.

"I already knew what [Bush] is about," he said. "I know what he stands for, what kind of man he is. It wasn't really a question [to join UTRGV] to be honest. If he said yes, I was going."

The event was open to the public and was marked with much fanfare, featuring several performances from the UTRGV Marching Band as well as the dance, cheer and drill teams of the UTRGV Spirit Program.

Hype has been building around the program since its inception. In addition to the crowd of over 2,400 at the practice, season tickets for the first year sold out Thursday,

according to Jonah Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for Communications and Championships.

Bush said it was "awesome" seeing the fans show up for practice, saying it reminded him of an NFL training camp practice. In 2015, he was an offensive assistant coach for the Buffalo Bills.

"This is [the fans'] team; this is the Valley's team," Bush said. "It was a cool atmosphere. Think our guys loved it, they were fired up."

The Vaqueros will continue to practice through the Fall 2024 semester and will begin their first official season of Division I FCS competition on Aug. 30, 2025, as a member of the Southland Conference.



Head football coach Travis Bush observes offensive drills during UTRGV Football's first full-team practice Sept. 9 at the Richard R. Flores Stadium in Edinburg.

Stay Connected with us on Social Media

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Noon Sunday vs. Texas A&M University-Commerce at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex

DEBATE*Continued from Page 1*

tariff plan, in theory, could discourage companies from importing goods and push manufacturing jobs back to the United States, but that tariffs alone will not help the economy.

"It is, to date, his main way of combating inflation and improving American jobs and the consensus among economists seems to be that tariffs will not do that," Smith said.

Each candidate claimed to have support from economists. Smith and Kaswan encourage voters to fact-check information and find unbiased sources that they trust.

On the topic of reproductive rights, Harris said "point-blank that she will restore the status quo of Roe v. Wade," according to Smith.

Kaswan said this would ensure that people who are pregnant have the ability to make decisions about their body without interference from the government, so long as the fetus has not reached the point of viability, meaning it could survive outside the womb.

"Trump's position is far less clear because ... he flip-flops a lot on abortion policies," he said.

During the debate, Trump referenced doctors performing abortions in the ninth month, referring to it as an "execution," a claim that Kaswan disputed.

"The fact of the matter is ... that something like 99% of all abortions happen prior to the point of viability," Kaswan said. "When an abortion is done after the point of viability, it's usually only because of severe

deformities or because the life of the mother is at risk. So, it's extremely rare."

Smith said on the topic of immigration, Harris wants to "put more money" into border security, and although she has spoken broadly about reforming the immigration process, she has not yet offered a "concrete plan."

"Trump, meanwhile, has said that he will carry out the biggest mass deportation in U.S. history," he said. "He has not voiced any kind of support for pathway to citizenship."

One topic raised during the debate was Project 2025, a book of policy suggestions that Smith described as "the biggest scaling back of federal authority since before the New Deal."

During the debate, Trump claimed not to be associated with the proposal, which outlines plans to "secure the border," instate a ban on all abortion, reduce the size of government and ban biological males from competing in women's sports, according to project2025.org.

"Despite the former president's claims that Project 2025 has nothing to do with him ... the fact that he does have former allies and members of his administration working to create the project shows that it is fair to tie him to that," Smith said. "Critics have claimed, not incorrectly, that this would effectively give the president more power than Congress and make the president effectively immune from prosecution."

Kinesiology senior David Saucedo, who plans to vote and is most interested in the economy, said the debate was "pretty chaotic."

"I wouldn't really say either of them did a good job," Saucedo said. "It just kind

**Venisha Colón**/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Early care and early childhood studies freshman Andrea Cisneros attends the Presidential Debate Watch Party Tuesday in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. "I think I'm leaning more towards Kamala Harris ... because I'm going into the education field," Cisneros said. "One of [Trump's] plans is to, like, take off the whole Education Department in the government. ... We need someone who's gonna advocate for our future generations, so, for sure, Kamala Harris."



Integrated health science freshman Zury Nicole Penate holds a U.S. flag Tuesday while waiting for the debate to begin in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. "I'm leaning towards Kamala Harris because Trump, he doesn't support abortion," Penate said.

of felt like they were just countering each other. ... They weren't really saying a plan."

He said Trump's comments about immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, "eating the dogs" and "pets of the people that live there" stood out to him.

Kaswan also noticed that comment and said it was a "racist dog whistle" that "demonstrates how far-removed from reality" Trump is.

Brownsville Early College High School senior Mia Garcia said it is important for young people to vote because if they want to see change, they need to "try to make that change."

Garcia said Trump is "obsessed with Joe Biden" and referenced how Trump compared Harris to Biden several times.

Smith said many of Harris' policies closely mirror those of the Biden administration and "whether that's a bad thing is debatable."

What stood out to him most about the debate is how Harris kept her cool, seeming to remain "unbothered by Trump" while causing him to get "frustrated."

For Kaswan, the thing that caught his attention was the "blatant" falsities Trump talked about.

"Trump would say something, and I'd just break out laughing because they were so blatantly false," he said. "That was what really stood out, was the absurdities that Trump would repeat."

Kaswan and Smith each encourage students to register to vote and make their voice heard.

Smith said the easiest and "arguably most effective way" to have one's voice heard is to "educate yourself and go out and vote."

MARRIAGE*Continued from Page 3*

aliens receiving such services likewise increases."

According to the Biden administration, KFT "will protect approximately half a million spouses of U.S. citizens and approximately 50,000 noncitizen children under the age of 21 whose parent is married to a U.S. citizen."

"We know that more than 11 million people currently live undocumented here in the country," said Joaquin Garcia, director of Organizing at La Unión del Pueblo Entero. "And so, this is a very small population that's going to get benefited. But if it is permanent, then again, those 500,000 people are still going to be in limbo, and their future is going to still be uncertain because they have been waiting for an opportunity like this for a very long time."

Andrew Smith, an assistant professor of political science at UTRGV, said the view of the 16 states is to reduce immigration.

"So the attitude of the [16] states is that President Biden is going beyond what he's allowed to do under the Immigration [and Nationality] Act," Smith said. "... Given the fact that many of the states involved in this

lawsuit have been heavily critical of the Biden administration's immigration policy, one can make the argument that the reality is this is just a continuation of their desire to cut down on immigration to the United States."

To qualify for KFT, noncitizen spouses of U.S. citizens must be physically present in the U.S. without legal admission or parole since at least June 17, 2014, have a legally valid marriage to a U.S. citizen on or before June 17, 2024, have no disqualifying criminal history and submit biometrics for background checks.

Noncitizen stepchildren of U.S. citizens must be unmarried and under 21 as of June 17, 2024, also be in the U.S. without legal admission or parole, have a noncitizen parent who was legally married to a U.S. citizen prior to their 18th birthday, have no disqualifying criminal history and submit biometrics for background checks.

Despite the hold, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will continue to accept filings from eligible immigrants.

To apply, there is a \$580 fee, a detailed application, an explanation for humanitarian parole and a long list of supporting documents required.

For more information on KFT, visit uscis.gov.

WRESTLING*Continued from Page 6*

life. You make noise, you see physical contact and you see a great story."

At its core, professional wrestling is a physically demanding sport. Wrestlers undergo grueling training regimens to develop strength, endurance, agility and flexibility, according to Chance.

"People think, 'Oh, I want to be a wrestler. I see it on TV,' and they show up to the school and ask how long it will take," he said. "... Well, it depends how consistent you are."

Chance said it takes months to properly develop the skills to perform the high-level stunts in the ring, including learning proper techniques for hitting opponents.

Galvan said, in 2022, he decided to quit his job at the time and fully immerse himself in a three-month professional wrestling training program led by Dustin "Goldust" Rhodes, a former WWE wrestler, in Leander.

But, beyond the dedication to athleticism, professional wrestling is a masterclass in storytelling. Wrestlers craft compelling characters, develop rivalries and weave intricate narratives that resonate with fans.

Galvan found inspiration in the word "Daddy" and created a humorous, outlandish persona that he hopes resonates with audiences.

"I was a quiet kid," he said. "The one thing where I felt good in school or did well was cracking jokes. ... Maybe, it was self-deprecating humor. ... [Daddy Danny Ismael]

is kind of an extension of my real personality."

He said his wrestling style is influenced by movies and stand-up comedy.

"I'm doing things that are unexpected and are just like, 'Why would somebody slap somebody else in the butt?'" Galvan said. "I mean, it's ridiculous, but that's kind of what I'm playing off of, giving the fans something they didn't expect."

He said he also values the theatrical aspects of wrestling.

"I'm feeling pain, but my character is also feeling pain," Galvan said. "I have to use my body to show people that that's happening. The theatrics of it is I'm using my body as best as I can to communicate to the audience what is happening to my character."

Chance told The Rider evoking strong emotions in the audience is key to creating unforgettable wrestling moments. He tells his wrestlers to focus on the four basic emotions: anger, joy, sadness and laughter.

"If you can make them feel one of those, you're gonna get a memory out of it," he said. "... They're gonna see you and think, 'Oh, I hate you, I like you, [or] he makes me laugh,' something that will make it a core memory."

Chance said Wrestler Martin Gomez uses "'Dragon Ball Z' references and 'One Piece' and, like, anime references in his matches."

"At first people were like, 'I don't get it.' But, after the fourth or fifth match, he's, like, 'Give me your energy,' and everybody's, like, putting their hands up."



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