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# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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# TRUMP'S ORDERS

## Birthright citizenship under fire

**Ethan Maldonado**  
THE RIDER

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 23, seeking to challenge the precedent of birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment, raising questions about the future of immigration policy and the rights of children born on U.S. soil.

Political science assistant professor Carla Angulo-Pasel explained the current system and the immediate effects of the order.

"Right now, under the 14th Amendment, anyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen," Angulo-Pasel said. "This has been the standard since the 1800s and was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1898 with Wong Kim Ark."

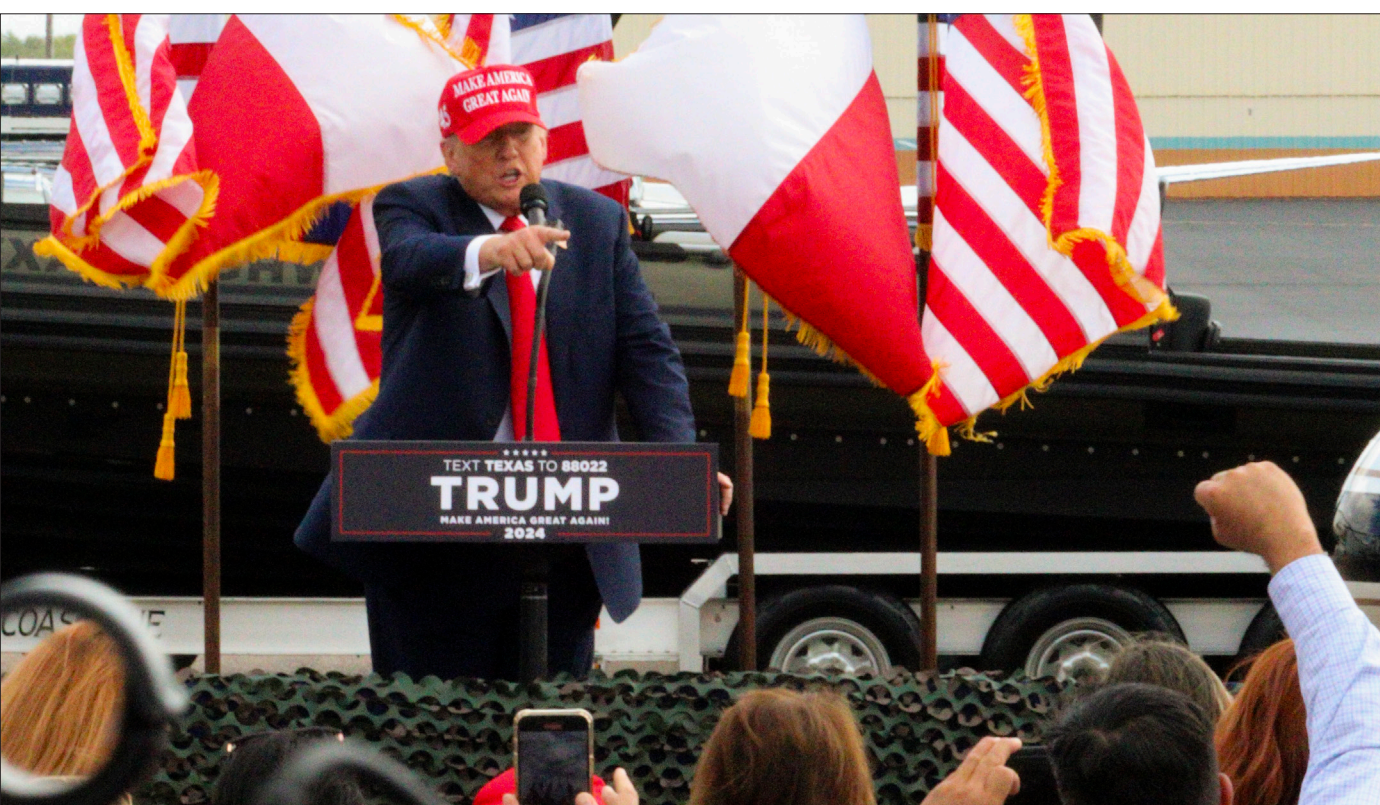
She said the executive order affects more than just undocumented immigrants.

"This isn't just about birthright citizenship," Angulo-Pasel said. "Combined with policies like mass deportations and restrictions on asylum, it's creating fear among immigrant communities. Here in the [Rio Grande] Valley, where many families are mixed-status, uncertainty about immigration policies is making people scared to go to work, hospitals or even churches."

Political science assistant professor Alvaro Corral said the executive order, if upheld, would require overturning legal precedent that has been in place since 1898.

"The 14th Amendment was clarified in 1898 with the Supreme Court case of Wong Kim Ark," Corral said. "Wong Kim Ark was born in California to Chinese

See **CITIZEN**, Page 3



FILE PHOTO

President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference November 20, 2023, at the South Texas International Airport at Edinburg.

**Pete Mendoza**  
THE RIDER

President Donald Trump started his second term on Jan. 20 with many new policies and executive orders for the United States.

On the first day of his term, Trump declared a national emergency at the Southern border.

"Because of the gravity and emergency of this present danger and imminent threat, it is necessary for the Armed Forces to take all appropriate action to assist the Department of

Homeland Security in obtaining full operational control of the southern border," Trump wrote in a presidential action on Jan. 20.

Following this, Benjamin Huffman, then acting secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, issued two directives to increase law enforcement and make changes to the humanitarian parole program.

"Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America's schools and churches to avoid arrest," a DHS spokesperson stated in a Jan. 21 news release. "... This

action will return the humanitarian parole program to its original purpose of looking at migrants on a case-by-case basis."

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement posts on X a daily count of arrests that have been made, with 1,179 arrests being the highest count on Jan. 27.

"Targeted enforcement operations are planned arrests of known criminal aliens who threaten national security

See **IMMIGRATION**, Page 3

## UTRGV optometry school, degree set to inaugurate Fall 2027

**Daniela Chapa-Reyes**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV is set to inaugurate a School of Optometry by Fall 2027. With the school, also comes a Doctor of Optometry degree.

William Miller, the dean for the school, said he hopes to increase eye care in the Rio Grande Valley and help people with early signs of diabetes.

"Many times patients are first diagnosed with diabetes at an optometrist office," Miller said. "We can do tests that actually can see diabetes in its very early stages before it gets severe and be able to refer them

to another health care professional."

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, as of 2024, Hidalgo County ranks No. 107 in the state in number of licensed optometrists, with only 69 optometrists. Cameron County ranks No. 108 with only 33 optometrists.

"We are going to provide an excellent education at a very reasonable tuition," Miller said. "What we want to do is make it affordable to students in the area so that, when they get out of optometry, they don't have this huge debt that takes them years to pay

See **SCHOOL**, Page 2

## \$16M Fieldhouse renovation is near a summer completion

**Ali Halloum**  
THE RIDER

Construction continues on a \$16 million face-lift to the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus, which is nearing its completion by the summer.

The project is one of 13 capital projects undertaken by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, representing a \$160 million commitment to facility upgrades across all of its programs.

John Evans, senior associate athletic director for Operations, has run point on the construction and renovations to the Fieldhouse.

In an interview with The Rider, Evans confirmed there are three parts to the project, which is currently in what he calls phase two.

Phase two consists of the construction of a 15,000-square-foot atrium, which will contain ticketing offices, concession stands, a team store, premium seats on the baseline and a dedicated space for the Athletics Hall of Fame.

"It's a big piece to modernize the facility," Evans said. "In the past, you'd walk outside directly into the gym. It kind of had a high school feel to it."

Also under construction



Amara Cazares/THE RIDER

The construction site of the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus is barricaded for the safety of the campus community.

See **ATHLETICS**, Page 7

## 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 Sundaes on Mondays**  
The **Student Union** will host Sundaes on Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. in the commons on the Edinburg campus. A **valid UTRGV student ID** is required.

**Tuesday Mario Kart Tournament**  
The **Student Union** will host **Mario Kart Deluxe Tournaments** from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Game Rooms on the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. A **student ID** is required to participate.

**AMSA Meeting**  
The **American Medical Student Association** will

meet from 5 to 6 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Building Room 119 on the Edinburg campus.

**Wednesday Union Unplugged**

The **Student Union** will host a **live house set** by **Eros Garcia** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the veranda on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday on the East Patio on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can enjoy **live music** and a **free snack**.

**Thursday IASA Meeting**

The **Internal Audit Student Association** will meet

from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Mathematics & General Classrooms Building Room 1.206 on the Edinburg campus. The meeting will feature **Eloy Alaniz**, UTRGV's chief audit officer.

**Casting Call**

**House of Fashion** will host a casting call from 4 to 7 p.m. in Sabal Hall Room 2.112 on the Brownsville campus. The casting call is to fill the upcoming **Spring Fashion Show roster**.

**Friday Region 5 Conference Meet**

The **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers** will host a **Region 5**

**Conference info session** from 5 to 7 p.m. in Engineering Building Room 1.272 on the Edinburg campus.

**Saturday Dye Hard Orange 5K**

**The Dye Hard Orange 5K Color Fun Run/Walk** will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Clinical Education Building on the Harlingen campus. Participants are encouraged to **bring sunglasses or goggles and a bandana** for the "orange zones" and to bring extra towels or wipes for after the race. The event is open to the public.

--Compiled by Ethan Maldonado



## POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 22 and 28.*

**Jan. 22 9:50 a.m.:** Officers on foot patrol observed a man using his personal transportation device on the Bronco Trail on the Edinburg campus. Officers informed the man of the policy and he left the area without further incident.

**Jan. 23 9:18 a.m.:** An officer contacted a student who slipped on the Lozano-Banco Bridge on the Brownsville campus. The student was not injured and refused emergency med-

ical services.

**11:21 a.m.:** A faculty employee raised a concern about an individual possibly soliciting in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. Officers contacted the individual, who said he was exercising his freedom of speech and was not selling any items. No violation of university policy occurred.

**11:41 a.m.:** A student reported a male student had been following her to class and off campus. The case is under investigation.

**3:20 p.m.:** A student reported her wallet was stolen when she went to serve herself lunch in the Dining Hall on the

Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**4:45 p.m.:** Officers responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision in Lot E-27 on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

**Jan. 26 3:05 p.m.:** A resident assistant reported seeing blood on the ground and on the pedestrian gate at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. After further investigation, the officer determined a student had sustained a nosebleed which caused the blood stains. The student was contacted and declined medical services.

**Jan. 27 9:42 a.m.:** Officers on foot patrol observed a student using her personal transportation device on the Bronco Trail on the Edinburg campus. Upon contact, the student was informed of the policy.

**Jan. 28 11:40 a.m.:** An officer responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision in Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

**11:11 p.m.:** A student reported finding damage to her vehicle, which was parked and unattended in Lot E-21 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Narda Serna

### SCHOOL, Continued from Page 1

back. ... We are going to keep it very reasonable compared to the other two institutions."

The "other two" optometry institutions in Texas are the University of Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry and the University of Houston College of Optometry.

Miller said the class sizes are to be about 40 students with about 18 to 20 faculty members. The student-faculty ratio would be 4:1 when in clinicals and possibly 20:1 in labs.

Gladys Pedraza, a physician's assistant studies graduate student, said she did not know about the coming School of Optometry.

"It is a great opportunity for all the students that are here and want to pursue that," Pedraza said. "And it's also kind of just a great opportunity for the community to benefit from that, especially with a lot of diabetes in the area, that usually leads to glaucoma problems as it progresses. ... It is an underserved area, in terms of a lot of medical problems, so it is definitely needed."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of May 2023, Texas was the second-highest state in optometry employment levels with 2,880 people employed, with an hourly mean wage of \$73.10 and an annual mean salary of \$152,060.

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# Celebrating Black History Month

**Hugo Sepúlveda**  
THE RIDER

February will kickoff with Black History Month events across the Rio Grande Valley and UTRGV by fostering and honoring Black cultures.

Anahi Esquivel, program coordinator for the Student Union, said a book club reading will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Sage Room on the Edinburg campus, hosted by Grant Research Officer Nicole Nicholson. The event will occur at the same time and day in La Sala on the Brownsville campus, hosted by Head of Research and Instructional Services, Joel Chirinos.

“We chose ‘Black Candle Woman’ by Diane Marie Brown, and it’s a book about three generations of women in a Black family who possesses magical powers,” Esquivel said. “So we’re really excited about bringing that book for students.”

She said students are able to get a free e-book copy when they RSVP through V Link.



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Búho bookstore in Brownsville will have a selection of books for Black History Month and a dedicated exhibit.

“It’s really nice because they get the free book and then they also get to join an interactive, engaging meeting,” Esquivel said.

She said they wanted to bring education, awareness, foster inclusivity and show solid solidarity, not just for

this month but the whole year around.

“We’re inviting students to be part of this, not just our event, but everything happening during Black History Month,” Esquivel said.

Village in the Valley kicked

off Black History Month Saturday with the first Black History Festival at Lincoln Park in Brownsville, unveiling of the historical marker at the Callandria Black History Museum in San Benito and a networking mixer in Harlingen.

Theresa Gatling, co-founder and co-president of Village in the Valley, spoke about the mission of their organization and what they are going to do for the Black History Month.

“Elevating and uniting the Black community while connecting the cultures of the Rio Grande Valley ... we do that through a number of things for the Black History Month,” Gatling said.

She said their motto is to create the Black experience in the Valley by engaging with other cultural things as well as share the Black culture with the community.

Gatling said there will be a First Writing Mixer honoring four to five Black pioneers of the Rio Grande Valley from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday in the Vineyard Wine Company in McAllen. The event is open to the public.

“Our biggest event the Village in the Valley does is going to be occurring on the 22nd of February, which is the Heritage Gospel Fest,” she said. “It’s really that event has been a staple for us.”



Amara Cazares/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

**CITIZEN,**  
*Continued from Page 1*

immigrants who were not eligible for U.S. citizenship due to racist immigration laws of the time. The Court ultimately ruled that, because Wong Kim Ark was born on U.S. soil, he was a U.S. citizen, regardless of his parents’ citizenship status.”

He said with the new interpretation of the 14th amendment, there is a lot of uncertainty for immigrants.

“The order could lead to stateless individuals—people who are neither citizens of the U.S. nor their parents’ countries of origin,” Corral said. “It creates significant uncertainty for families and questions about the citizenship process.”

Mass communication senior Paolo Santiago, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. as residents, said he questioned what the change could have meant for his family.

“If a baby couldn’t have citizenship at birth—then my brother wouldn’t have been a citizen because when my mother and father had him, they were residents,” Santiago said. “They were still

on work visas here, and he wouldn’t have had the citizenship that he has.”

He expressed concern for children born in the U.S. to parents without permanent legal status.

“I’m thinking about a child being born, what are they gonna do?” Santiago said. “Immediately check for the parentage and the legality of the parents in the United States? The problem with that is there’s no more DACA, so there’s no protection for that child. What’s going to happen?”

He also pointed to the historical significance of immigration in the United States.

“It feels like a plot to stop illegal immigration, which, understandably, we should try to get in here as legally as possible,” Santiago said. “But again, immigrants are the majority of the workforce and work twice as hard to get just maybe even a smidgen of the same recognition. Immigrants really are the backbone of this country.”

There is currently a temporary restraining order on the executive order implementation until Thursday and, as of press time, 22 states have filed lawsuits challenging its constitutionality.

**IMMIGRATION,**  
*Continued from Page 1*

or public safety,” the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement posted on Jan. 24 on X.

Bryant Sculos, political science lecturer, said the policy is not “rooted in a law” and was more of a normative practice for the previous administration.

“Prior administrations had said that they weren’t going to have ICE officers going to universities or schools or places of worship, but that was to avoid inflaming local tension or being too controversial, being seen as too aggressive and insulting to people of religious faith or disrupting universities,” Sculos said.

Alvaro Corral, political science assistant professor, said the Rio Grande Valley can expect to see an increase in ICE activity and as seen in previous administrations can cause a chilling effect.

“Chilling effects means that the immigrant community tends to shutter in place a bit more in their homes out

of fear of going public,” Corral said. “That going out in the public either to schools, churches, hospitals [or] federal buildings ... [is] too much risky exposure for them. That they may be subject to be stopped by immigration officials.”

Sculos said international students, migrants with visas or documented individuals have multiple reasons to be deported.

“There’s a good reason for all different types of people to be afraid, although, there’s degrees of protection from certain things,” he said. “It is a little bit more difficult for the administration to deport people who have a current visa, but certainly not impossible.”

Corral said this policy change can increase the fears of students and cause a change in their livelihoods.

“This could create some emotional stress for [students] while they’re trying to study, while they’re trying to go about their daily lives as young people, as students,” he said.

Daniela Kari Garcia, a UTRGV post-baccalaureate student, said the church and state have been separated from one another and should be kept as is.

“I feel like we need to continue following that because it’s an invasion of personal space of the schools and especially the teachers that are trying to educate their students on certain topics,” Garcia said.

She said it takes a long time to get citizenship and costs money just to afford a lawyer.

“I was very unsure about continuing my education because all of my family are immigrants or they’re in the process of getting their citizenship,” Garcia said. “It’s scary because I felt like I had to help them and I have to help those

who are afraid to speak up.”

Corral said the focus on keeping immigrants out of the country can cause further issues.

“Cutting off and severing legal pathways to the United States will only serve to increase unauthorized immigration,” he said.

The political science assistant professor said President Trump could use the situation of a national emergency as a strategic reason to be able to deploy the U.S. military.

“By labeling [the U.S.-Mexico border] as a national emergency, this is a major use of a show of force to the American public that the Trump administration is trying to deliver on their campaign promises,” Corral said.

He said UTRGV should give students and employees a sense of reassurance.

“Cutting off and severing legal pathways to the United States will only serve to increase unauthorized immigration.”

-- Alvaro Corral



## Am I an alien?



**Sofia M. Cantú Saucedo**  
THE RIDER

The first thing that comes to your mind when you think of an alien is probably a green creature.

One or three eyes, flies around in a giant thing somewhere in the universe.

That's correct, but I'm here! It's me, I'm the alien.

"The term 'alien' means any person not a citizen or national of the United States," according to the United States Code Title 8.

They don't know what it's like to be an alien, to leave home with the risk of never finding a home again.

I'm split between two lands, I'm becoming a bridge between two homes.

But can I even call it home here? Because, you know, I have an expiration date.

Even though I have put all my mind, body and soul on working toward getting to this point in my life, my future is uncertain.

Am I doing all of this for

nothing? Am I wasting my parents' money? Am I ever going to live the life I've always wished for?

Part of my future is in the hands of the 78-year-old white man who is in charge of this country.

If I'm here, I'm "poisoning the blood" of HIS country, Trump said in a Dec. 16, 2023, New Hampshire rally.

"They're not humans, they're animals," he said on April 2, 2024, in a Michigan campaign event.

So, I am an alien. I don't be-

immigrants, I feel your pain.

I'm just a student working and studying to accomplish her dream of being successful and making a name for herself.

I had to listen to my uncle, who was once an immigrant, who 20 years ago left his home country looking for a better life, tell me to my face, "I think it's good this is happening. There's a lot of people who are here without papers."

Are you listening to yourself? I am, too, looking for a better future. I am, too, going to be affected.

There are 20 million people who are going to go through deportation, they are "aliens" like me.

Humans that have worked and fought for their lives and for the "American Dream."

Families are going to be torn apart for this reason.

They're just looking for a better way of life to support their families and I just want to make my parents proud.

If you know someone who is going through fear because of this, help them feel safe and stick by their side.

Think about me and others in my position when you're the one making decisions for the people that are in this country and can't speak up.

"They don't know what it's like to be an alien, to leave home with the risk of never finding a home again."

long here.

Do you know how easy others have it? That question ponders in my mind all the time.

I know I'm not the only one going through this right now. I know I'm not the only person looking at their loved one with teary eyes scared to step outside.

Even though I'm not in the same position as other fellow



What are you most excited about the Super Bowl this year?

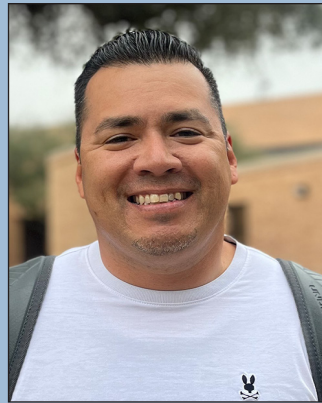


"Just watching the game, I'm a big NFL fan. My team didn't make it. I'm a Cowboys fan, but I was gonna hope that Josh Allen went. But I'll just watch the Chiefs and the Eagles and hope the Eagles beat the Chiefs, 'cause I don't like Mahomes."

**Bisher Alsabbagh**  
medical doctoral student

"Oh man, I wish I could say I'm excited, but both teams that made it, I was going for the opposite teams on both games. So, I guess maybe just the food."

**Jaime Hernandez**  
library associate



"I'm excited to see in which way the refs are going to get paid off, you know, how they're going to cheat. [It is] very interesting how they do it every year."

**Jonatán Muñoz**  
sustainable agriculture and food systems freshman

"The halftime show, I saw that SZA's gonna be performing with Kendrick, so I'm very excited for that. Hopefully, they play 'All the Stars.' I'm just hoping they do."

**Jennifer Valdez**  
mass communication sophomore



--Compiled and photos by Jose Rodriguez and Daniela Martinez Salazar

https://visitusonlineatutrgv.comtoparticipate

### Wacky Web Poll

Are you reading the syllabus for each one of your courses?

9% Nah

91% Of course

0% Maybe?

THE RIDER

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The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to [therider@utrgv.edu](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu). All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

# 'Alegría's' emerald anniversary

**Eduardo Escamilla**  
THE RIDER

"Alegría," an annual performance by the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico, is celebrating its 55th anniversary this year, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and vibrant talent that has defined the program for over half a century.

The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Additional performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 and 15 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 16.

"If you want to see a good quality folklórico show, it will be here," said Miguel Peña, director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico and dance lecturer.

Peña added that UTRGV is a unique institution for having concentrations in folklórico and mariachi, something other universities in the country do not offer.

"The folklórico culture and the mariachi culture are very embedded in the [Rio Grande] Valley, and we can see it everywhere we look," he said. "UTRGV has one of the best mariachis in the whole nation."

The Rider asked Peña what makes "Alegría" special.

"I think it's ... the mixture of talent, of all the dancers, the singer, the musicians and the people [part of] the production," he replied. "I think it's what makes 'Alegría' one of the best shows in the Rio Grande Valley."

The show was first conceived by the program's late founder Amilda Thomas, a professor in the department of Health and Physical Education, at then Pan American University.

Peña, who became the



Angel Ballesteros/ THE RIDER

Biology senior Omar Lopez (left) and dance graduate student Elsa Vazquez rehearse for "Alegría" Jan. 27 in the Health & Physical Education II Building on the Edinburg campus.

program director in 2018, said the evolution of "Alegría" since its inauguration, has been in the immense talent and quality of dancers that continue to join the company from all parts of Texas.

"They could have gone to any university in Texas to study ... but they came down here because they wanted to dance with us," he said.

Angela Marentes, dance and civil engineering junior, told The Rider it means a lot to be in "Alegría."

"Especially coming from outside of the Valley, I get to experience a culture I wouldn't get to experience [otherwise]," Marentes said. "... For me, it's life-changing getting to celebrate something

funding opportunities for the dancers to experience, such as traveling to Oklahoma to perform with Los Tigres del Norte.

The Rider asked Peña what it means to choreograph a folklórico performance and how much creative freedom there is in directing it.

"[That is] a really interesting and long conversation," he replied. "The work of a choreographer [is] to do a good quality research, so we can represent [the dances]

as authentic as possible ... maybe one little step could be included in the choreography to make it your own.

"But, mainly, the work of a Mexican choreographer is to do good research ... and maybe to [add] a backstory, for example, a love story ... or the inclusion of some other elements into the choreography, like props."

Peña said he became part of "Alegría's" history by performing with the folklórico company in 2006 as an undergraduate in legacy institution, the University of Texas-Pan American.

"If I go back to 2006, I never thought I was going to be in this position," he said. "... I was studying engineering. I got my bachelor's in engineering. ... And then, I got my master's in dance, and that's when I came back [and became] director of the group."

Peña said "it's super special" being part of such a legendary production.

"To be part of it now on this side of the stage, I enjoyed dancing, but I think I enjoy more directing and choreographing," he said. "So, it's a nice feeling."

Peña aims for the production to bring some "alegría" to audiences but also a sense of pride.

Dance senior Ezra Alcocer said it is a great feeling to be a part of "Alegría" because he becomes part of the group's history.

"When I see at the end of any ... dance ... people clapping, I think that [is] the most rewarding feeling," Alcocer added. "[And] at the end of the show, seeing the crowd standing up whistling and clapping [is rewarding] because you know you did the best."

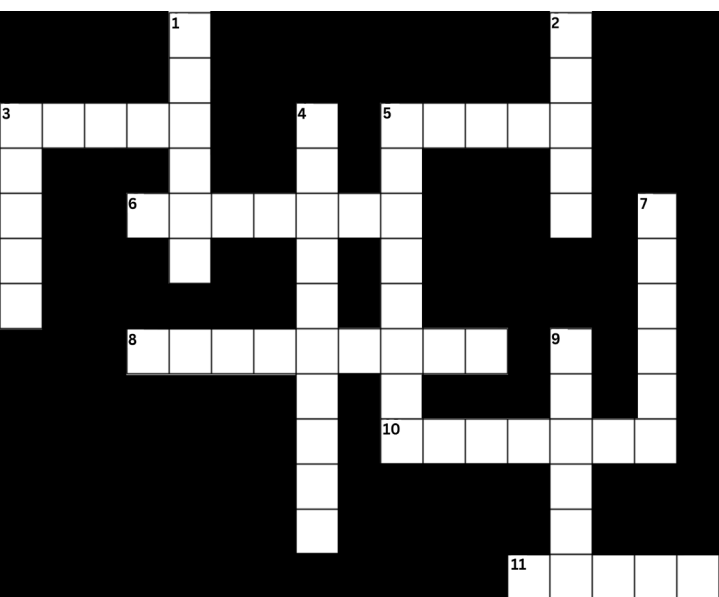
Tickets are available for purchase via showpass.com.

"... For me, it's life-changing getting to celebrate something like this"

--Angela Marentes

like this."

The director said the prestige of the program continues to grow thanks to the university's support through



**DOWN**

- UTRGV \_\_\_\_ Stadium
- Acronym for the building in which The Rider's office is located on the Edinburg campus
- Acronym for the building in which The Rider's office is located on the Brownsville campus
- The home of basketball and volleyball games
- Newest men's athletic program addition
- President Guy \_\_\_\_
- Official bright color of UTRGV

**ACROSS**

- Mascot of Edinburg's legacy institution
- The \_\_\_\_ form is the application for federal student aid
- The university's mascot
- UTRGV's NCAA conference
- A quiet place to study and borrow books
- The "T" in UTRGV

**SUDOKU**

Jan. 21 puzzle answer key:

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

**Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes**

**Eduardo Escamilla**  
THE RIDER

**Aries (March 21 - April 19):**

You're feeling more idealistic about your academic goals and drawn to collaborating with classmates.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20):**

This week, you're finding beauty in the simple things, like a perfectly brewed cup of coffee before an early class or a cozy study spot in the library.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20):**

Communication is key for you this week, Gemini, especially when it comes to group projects and class discussions.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22):**

This week, you're focusing on your emotional well-being and finding a balance between your studies and your social life.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22):**

You're shining this week, Leo! Your confidence is boosted, making you a natural leader.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22):**

This week, you're feeling more introspective about your academic path.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22):**

You're surrounded by positive energy and opportunities for connection.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):**

This week, you're feeling more passionate and intense about your studies.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):**

Adventure and excitement are on the horizon for you, Sagittarius!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):**

This week, you're focusing on building strong foundations for your academic success.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):**

This week, you're feeling more independent and free-spirited in your approach to learning.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20):**

You're feeling more idealistic about your future career and drawn to fields that resonate with your soul.

# Ciudadanía por nacimiento en riesgo

**Ethan Maldonado**  
THE RIDER

El Presidente Donald Trump firmó una orden ejecutiva el 23 de enero, buscando desafiar los precedentes de la ciudadanía por nacimiento bajo la Decimocuarta Enmienda, planteando preguntas sobre la política migratoria en el futuro y los derechos de los niños nacidos en tierra estadounidense.

La profesora asistente de ciencias políticas Carla Angulo-Pasel explicó más sobre el sistema actual y los efectos inmediatos de la orden.

“Ahora mismo, bajo la Decimocuarta Enmienda, cualquiera que haya nacido en tierra estadounidense es ciudadano”, dijo Angulo-Pasel. “Este ha sido el estándar desde los 1800s y fue sostenido por la Suprema Corte con Wong Kim Ark”.

Dijo que la orden ejecutiva afecta más que solamente a inmigrantes indocumentados.

“Esto no es solo sobre la ciudadanía por nacimiento”, dijo Angulo-Pasel. “Combinado con las políticas de deportación masiva y la restricción de asilo, se está creando un miedo entre las comunidades de inmigrantes. Aquí en el Valle de Río Grande, donde muchas familias tienen estatus mixto, la incertidumbre sobre las políticas de inmigración hace que la gente tenga miedo de ir al trabajo, hospital o incluso a las iglesias”.

El profesor asistente de ciencias políticas Alvaro Corral dijo que si la orden ejecutiva se mantiene, requeriría derrocar precedentes legales que han estado en pie desde 1898.

“La Decimocuarta Enmien-

da fue aclarada en 1898 con el caso de la Suprema Corte de Wong Kim Ark”, dijo Corral. “Wong Kim Ark nació en California de padres inmigrantes chinos que no eran elegibles para la ciudadanía estadounidense por las leyes de inmigración racistas en ese tiempo. La corte finalmente decidió que, porque Wong Kim Ark nació en tierra de Estados Unidos, él era estadounidense sin importar el estatus de ciudadanía de sus padres”.

Dijo que con la nueva interpretación de la Decimocuarta Enmienda, hay mucha incertidumbre para los inmigrantes.

“La orden podría involucrar a personas apátridas—personas que no son ciudadanos de los EE.UU., ni tampoco ciudadanos de los países de origen de sus padres”, dijo Corral. “Está creando cierta incertidumbre para las familias y preguntas sobre el proceso de ciudadanía”.

Paolo Santiago, estudiante de último año de comunicación, cuyos padres emigraron a EE.UU. como residentes, dijo que se preguntaba qué pudo haber significado el cambio para su familia.

“Si un bebé no pudiera tener ciudadanía al nacer—entonces mi hermano no sería ciudadano porque

cuando mi madre y padre lo tuvieron, ellos eran residentes”, dijo Santiago. “Ellos todavía tenían visa de trabajo aquí, y él no hubiese podido tener la ciudadanía que tiene”.



FILE PHOTO

El presidente Donald Trump visita el Valle de Río Grande en 2019 en el Aeropuerto Internacional McAllen Miller.

Expresó preocupación por los niños nacidos en EE.UU. de padres sin estatus legal permanente.

“Estoy pensando en un niño

y la legalidad de los padres en Estados Unidos? El problema con eso es que ya no hay DACA, entonces no hay protección para el niño. ¿Qué va a pasar? ¿El niño también será deportado porque no es ciudadano?”

También señaló la importancia histórica de la inmigración en

Estados Unidos.

“Parece una conspiración para detener la inmigración

ilegal, lo cual, comprendo, debemos de tratar de llegar aquí lo más legalmente posible”, dijo Santiago. “Pero, de nuevo, los inmigrantes son la mayoría de la fuerza laboral y trabajan el doble de duro para obtener tal vez incluso una pizca del mismo reconocimiento. Los inmigrantes son realmente la columna vertebral de este país”.

Actualmente hay una orden de restricción temporal sobre la implementación de la orden ejecutiva hasta el jueves y, al cierre de esta edición, 22 estados han presentado demandas impugnando su constitucionalidad.

“... la incertidumbre sobre las políticas de inmigración hace que la gente tenga miedo de ir al trabajo, hospital o incluso a las iglesias”

--Carla Angulo-Pasel

naciendo, ¿qué van a hacer?” dijo Santiago. “¿Inmediatamente verificar la paternidad

# Celebrando el Año Nuevo Lunar



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Pierre Lu (de izquierda), profesor de metodología de investigación de UTRGV, explica su caligrafía a Karla Aguirre y Sacette Quintanilla, estudiantes de último año de servicio social.



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Estudiantes de Brownsville escriben sus deseos de buena fortuna el miércoles en el PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón del campus de Brownsville. El evento del Año Nuevo Lunar fue organizado por International Student Services.



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Reyna Martinez (izquierda), estudiante de primer año de administración y Viviana Almanza, estudiante de primer año de ciencia de la salud integrada, se toman una foto con las sombrillas en la cabina de fotos en el campus de Brownsville.



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Alex Garcia, estudiante de segundo año de diseño de comunicación visual, escribe sus deseos en el PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón del campus de Brownsville.



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Linternas cuelgan a lo largo del PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón celebrando el Año Nuevo Lunar. El evento fue organizado por International Student Services.



Mykel Del Angel/THE RIDER

Un estudiante admira la caligrafía pintada por Pierre Lu, profesor de metodología de investigación de UTRGV.

# Preparing to serve



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior Valentina Urraco practices at the UTRGV Orville I. Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus. The UTRGV Women's Tennis Team's season began Saturday at home against the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Javelinas.

## Ali Halloum THE RIDER

As the ball gets rolling in the Spring 2025 semester, the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team is entering their first spring season in the Southland Conference, among other changes to the program this year.

The team's spring season began Saturday in Edinburg against the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Javelinas. As of press time, the results of the match were unavailable.

UTRGV Women's Tennis head coach West Nott said he is "super excited" to begin spring play, a season that has brought a lot of change for the program.

"The energy is high right now," Nott said. "They all want to prove themselves. I think most of the team has a chip on their shoulder and [I'm] really looking forward to seeing what they can do for the upcoming spring season."

This season, the team only had three returning players, leaving five players as new-

comers. Most have previous experience in collegiate tennis, with only two of the incoming players being freshmen.

Sophomore Hitakmya Narwal, who transferred from the University of South Dakota, said that although she did not "feel that comfortable with teammates" at her previous school, she "felt welcomed in the [Rio Grande] Valley."

Narwal said her first impressions of the team entering spring play were positive and the team was "strong" following the break.

"Everyone was practicing, even at their homes," she said. "We have a really strong team this year and we're all ready, good to go [and] excited to play."

Nott said that everyone, from newcomers to the returners, are going to "have a hand" in the team's success in the upcoming season.

"We are gonna rely heavily on these new players," he said. "They're experienced, they know how to win and some of these players I had recruited before, we just didn't get them

the first time around. They were unhappy in their former environments and they've found a new home and they feel like they've made the right decision."

This season marks the first in which the Vaqueros, across most of its programs, compete in the Southland Conference after leaving the Western Athletic Conference.

After playing in the Southland Fall Championship, Nott is looking forward to getting the team to April's conference tournament in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

"New opponents, new coaches [and] new venues—those are gonna be the adjustments we're gonna have to make," he said. "Everything else is pretty much the same. We're just trying to win every match."

Following their season opener this past Saturday, the Vaqueros will take on the St. Mary's University Rattlers at 2 p.m. Thursday in San Antonio. Then, they will return home to take on Prairie View A&M University at 10 a.m. Sunday.

## ATHLETICS, Continued from Page 1

tion as part of phase two is a memorial plaza in front of the new atrium, which will be dedicated to the men's basketball late coach Lew Hill. In all, phase two is set to cost \$9 million, according to Evans.

He told The Rider the atrium will be a huge boost on game day in terms of security, steering concession traffic away from the tunnel to the locker room. It will also add an additional entrance for fans.

"We'd have to block off fans from getting concessions at halftime, pregame and post game just, so there was no interactions with the fans and the teams," Evans said. "Now, 90% of that traffic will go to the atrium in the opposite direction, and that's gonna help us out from a game operations standpoint."

Phase one, which is already complete, cost approximately \$2 million to build, according to Evans. It includes interior renovations to the Fieldhouse, installing a new court and new seats with courtside seating.

Fans will also notice brand new video boards were

installed at both ends of the court as a part of the first phase of construction.

Additionally, a practice gym is already completed, which replaced an old indoor pool. The space now contains three volleyball nets, six basketball hoops, shooting machines and practice cameras for coaches and athletes to observe their practices.

There are also plans to create an entrance exclusive to student-athletes, allowing them to access the facility at any time to practice or work out.

Vice President and Director of Athletics Chasse Conque confirmed the gym and all the equipment contained within cost the department \$5 million.

Evans said the department coordinated with the construction crews to ensure that practices and games were not impacted by the construction.

All construction to the Fieldhouse is set to finish in June, well ahead of the start of the 2025 UTRGV Volleyball season. They will be the first program to play in the renovated venue.



Amara Cazares/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus is under construction as of Tuesday. Construction is set to finish by summer.

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: TREY MILLER



Trey Miller, a kinesiology junior from Houston, is a guard for the UTRGV Men's Basketball Team. In the current season, Miller has a total of 52 rebounds, 24 offensive and 28 defensive, averaging 2.5 per game.

**Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?**

**A:** "I like to go fishing with my family any time we go home for the summer. I go to my uncle's house somewhere out in the country and we just go fishing."

**Q: Who or what got you started in basketball?**

**A:** "Honestly, I was a kid that liked playing sports. When I was growing up, I played like three sports all at once. I think watching Michael Jordan play basketball is what really got me into playing basketball. My dad used to bring home tapes ... and I used to just

watch them for hours."

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

**A:** "I would say my father, honestly. That man does a lot of things for me, and I know a lot of people don't have men like that in their lives and stuff like that. So, I'm really grateful for that."

**Q: Who is your favorite basketball player?**

**A:** "My favorite basketball player right now, honestly, might be Damian Lillard."

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

**A:** "I like a lot of rap, but I also

like a lot of R&B."

**Q: Which shows or movies do you like to watch?**

**A:** "Anything comedy or action as far as movies and shows, honestly. As anything piques my interest, I can't really name any specifics."

**Q: Do you have any hobbies?**

**A:** "I game if you can call that a hobby."

**Q: What is your biggest motivation?**

**A:** "My family, everybody who supports me, everybody who drives me to be better every day."

**Q: What do you like most**

**about UTRGV?**

**A:** "I really like the community out here. They're nice, they're chill, and they show up for game time."

**Q: What are your biggest goals?**

**A:** "My biggest goal is to make it to the league. That's what I've always wanted to do as a kid and play professional basketball. As far as school, I want to graduate and get my degree and, then, come back and get my Master's like I promised my mom."

--Compiled and photo by Jose Rodriguez

## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

**10 a.m. Sunday  
vs. Prairie View A&M**

at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center

**MEN'S TENNIS**

**1 p.m. Sunday  
vs. Prairie View A&M**

at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center



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