

# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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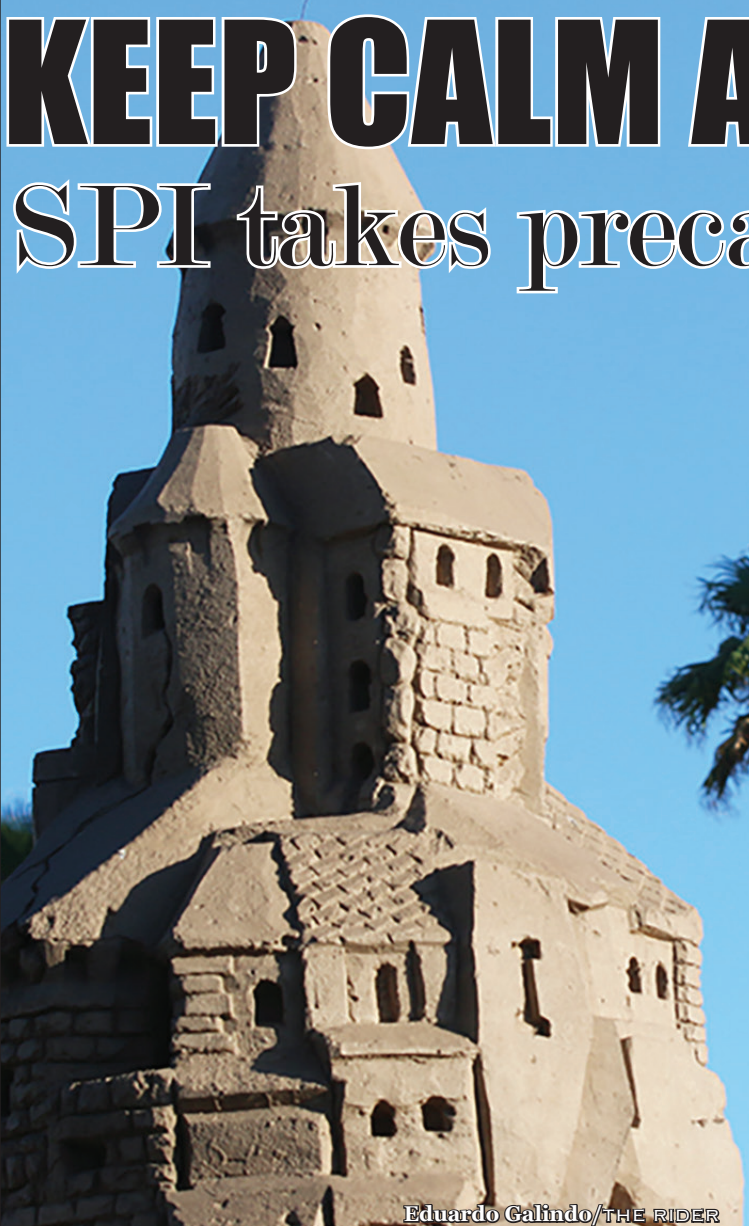
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## KEEP CALM AND SPRING BREAK

### SPI takes precautions during holiday



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

#### Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The new year brings a new Spring Break with new college students, but the City of South Padre Island plans to take the same approach as last year to keep visitors safe.

SPI Police Chief Claudine O'Carroll said the city has increased the number of law enforcement officers this year.

"We hire from outside the area to support our law enforcement needs here on the Island," O'Carroll said. "And we include our state and federal law enforcement partners."

She said they manage an emergency operation center the week of Spring Break.

"The whole idea behind that is this is where all agencies can meet and collaborate daily about their security plans and any issues that arise during that time period," O'Carroll said.

She said the police department will have a crime

victim liaison set up should any kind of situation arise in which someone needs assistance or guidance.

O'Carroll also said traffic control personnel will be at major locations and intersections to facilitate movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic to make sure everyone is staying safe.

Asked what tips she has for college students who will visit the Island, O'Carroll

drinks unattended.

Fire Chief Jim Pigg said the main thing is for students to make sure they have situational awareness.

"We understand that people come out and they want to have a good time and they want to drink and let loose and, you know, cut loose from their studies," Pigg said. "And we want to make sure that everybody that comes over goes home safe."

Chiefs O'Carroll and Pigg look forward to a safe and productive Spring Break.

"We want everybody to have a good time and come out and enjoy the concerts and everything that the Island has to offer," Pigg said. "Again, situational awareness is just understanding what you're doing and where you're going and just being safe."

During the same week, some UTRGV students will participate in Alternative Spring Break by volunteering

See **BREAK**, Page 5

#### VAQUERO VOICE

Page 4

replied, "I think one of the biggest things is stay with a buddy, you know, stick with your friends if you're out and about."

She also encourages students to use the Island [Metro], practice water safety, keep valuables somewhere safe and never leave your

## Turnstile turndown



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Texas Southmost College criminal justice sophomore Jesus Garcia (left) and TSC general studies sophomore Adam Montiel fight for possession of the ball in an intramural soccer game last Wednesday at the TSC Recreation Center Field in Brownsville.

### UTRGV student denied access to intramurals in Brownsville

#### Victor G. Ramirez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mechanical engineering junior Julian Echevarria has been playing intramural sports at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center since Fall 2019 but was suspended indefinitely after being told he was "not an active UTRGV Brownsville student."

Echevarria said he is taking 16 credit hours online and on the Edinburg campus.

He said he was notified via email on Feb. 18 about the suspension by IMLeagues, which is the intramural league used by TSC and UTRGV.

"I went to the rec center to see what it was all about," Echevarria said.

See **REC**, Page 5



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER

Civil engineering senior David Gomez receives information about ordering a UTRGV class ring from a Jostens representative last Tuesday in the Library lobby on the Edinburg campus. UTRGV will host its traditional Ring Ceremony April 16 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

## 'By students for students?'

### Concerns about Ring Ceremony restrictions

#### Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

Graduating seniors are meant to celebrate their academic success. One of those celebrations is the UTRGV Ring Ceremony.

The event showcases these students and their dedication in front of alumni and loved ones. However, not every

senior will experience this moment.

This year, the Ring Ceremony will be held April 16 at the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. Some seniors will not be attending because of ring prices and their dislike of the variety of ring choices.

One of these graduating seniors is

See **RING**, Page 5



# 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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## MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today  
Vaquero Ice  
Cream Bar  
Free ice cream  
with various  
toppings to choose

from will be served starting at noon in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus.

### Super Smash Bros. Tournament

A Super Smash Bros. tournament will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. The three finalists will be awarded VBucks.

### Distinguished Speaker Series

Student Activities is hosting academy award-winning costume designer Ruth Carter at 7:30 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus.

### Tuesday

#### Game Release

Students can play Mega Man Zero/Zx Legacy for free starting at 12:30

p.m. in the Game Room on the Edinburg campus.

### Coffee and Conversation

The Baptist Student Ministry will host a Coffee and Conversation where students will be informed about BSM and have free coffee from 9 to 10:00 a.m. on the Quad on the Edinburg campus.

### Wednesday

#### Women's History Month

The Leadership and Mentoring department will show the film, "Anita: Speaking the Truth," from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

### Movie Showing

The Campus Activities Board will show 'The Joker' at 4 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus and Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus.

### Poker Tournament

A poker tournament will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Game Room on the Brownsville campus. The three

finalists will be awarded VBucks.

### Wellness Wednesday

Students can receive free wellness checks such as body mass index, blood pressure and glucose levels and body fat percentage from noon to 2 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville.

### Thursday

#### Vogue-queero Ball

Students can celebrate LGBTQ+ pride with the culture of the '80s and '90s. The event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. in La Sala on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Friday in the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

### Friday

#### UTRGV Baseball

The UTRGV Baseball Team will face off against New Jersey Institute of Technology at 7 p.m. in the Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus.

Students receive free admission with a valid student ID.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

# POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 18 and 24.



### Feb. 18

**9:58 a.m.:** A staff member reported losing a university-issued key on the Edinburg campus sometime in January.

**10:24 a.m.:** A staff member reported losing four university-issued keys in an unknown location off campus. She had last seen them in January after the holiday.

**12:32 p.m.:** A student reported that while exiting her vehicle in Lot E-27 on the Edinburg campus, a gust of wind swung her door open, striking the mirror on a vehicle parked next to her. The mirror sustained a small chip. The student wanted the incident documented.

**1:32 p.m.:** A student reported her father has been receiving threats off campus via phone. The incidents have been reported to the Brownsville Police Department. She also reported observing a suspicious vehicle on Feb. 13 on two separate occasions. She wanted the incident documented. She was advised of the services available at UTRGV.

**1:59 p.m.:** An officer responded to the Science complex on the Edinburg campus, where two individuals were stuck in an elevator. After the UTRGV Police Department and UTRGV Facilities were unable to get them out, the Edinburg Fire Department was contacted. Facilities reset the elevator, and the individuals were removed. One individual was identified as a student, while the other left the area before being identified by the officer. The elevator was placed out of service pending maintenance.

**3:42 p.m.:** A staff member reported a missing laptop after conducting an inventory of computer laptops for her area. She then determined the laptop had been checked out to a student, but she had failed to return it as scheduled in December 2019. Students Rights and Responsibilities will further review the incident.

**Feb. 19**  
**7:10 a.m.:** An officer was approached by a non-affiliated individual seeking medical services for her non-affiliated husband in Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. Emergency medical services transported the man to the Valley Baptist Medical Center in Brownsville for further evaluation.

**10:46 a.m.:** An officer made contact with a non-affiliated individual who

reported her daughter was injured while attending a baseball game on Feb. 14. The individual said her daughter fell off a concrete wall and landed on her left arm. The daughter suffered a humeral fracture. UTRGV Athletics was informed of the incident, and a report was generated for documentation purposes.

**1:17 p.m.:** An officer made contact with a student whose vehicle was damaged in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. The hood of the vehicle had been keyed. The student does not know where the vehicle damage occurred. The case is under investigation.

**8:19 p.m.:** Upon picking up a purse that had been turned in as found property, the purse's owner, a student, reported her wallet had been stolen. The wallet had contained personnel documents and U.S. currency.

### Feb. 20

**6:39 p.m.:** A staff member reported he lost his wallet, which contained a University of Texas System identification card, at an off-campus location Feb. 6.

### Feb. 21

**1:01 p.m.:** A staff member reported receiving several unwanted vulgar cell phone messages from an unknown male. The case is under investigation.

### Feb. 22

**8:37 a.m.:** A non-affiliated juvenile reported feeling ill and vomited while attending an event at the Performing

Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. He claimed he had eaten bad food. After declining medical attention, he left with his school's guardian.

### Feb. 24

**10:55 a.m.:** A staff member reported losing his university ID card, uniform shirt and pants. He is currently exiting the university and needed to document the missing items.

**1:20 p.m.:** An officer responded to a student who appeared to be fainting in the area of Van Week Street on the Edinburg campus. She reported feeling ill after a workout and planned to seek medical attention.

**2:08 p.m.:** An officer conducting a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by a student detected an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. After searching the vehicle, a small amount of marijuana and a marijuana smoking pipe was found. The driver was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and a warning for the traffic violation.

**8:15 p.m.:** A UTRGV communications operator noticed two individuals from Mexico on the border cameras jumping the U.S. border fence in the area of Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. UTRGV police officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents were notified. Border Patrol apprehended the two individuals without incident.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia



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## PROMOTIONALS

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# Cameron County exceeding voting expectations

**Maleny Ortega**  
THE RIDER

Cameron County's early voting turnout for the March 3 Primary Election is on pace to exceed 2016 figures, according to Remi Garza, Cameron County elections administrator.

As of last Thursday, early voting totaled 19,369, with 15,820 ballots cast in the Democratic primary and 3,549 in the Republican primary.

The results of the March 3 primary will determine the Democratic and Republican nominees for president, U.S. senators and representatives, as well as state and county officials.

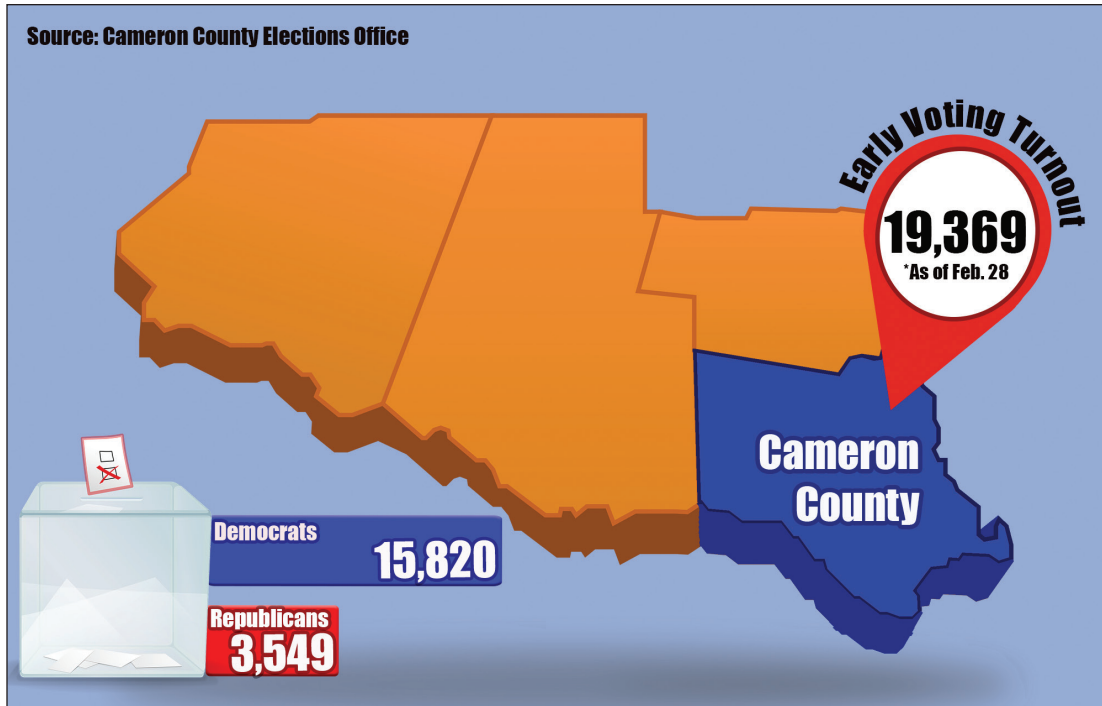
Garza said the elections office does not set specific goals but anticipates voter turnout based on past elections.

"We had thought we would see a turnout equal to what happened in 2016 because it was a very active election cycle and as of right now, we're well ahead of those figures by approximately 1,500. Almost 2,000 people more have participated [than] ... in 2016," Garza said.

The Brownsville Public Library-Main Branch is the polling site with the most turnout, with 6,076 ballots cast as of last Thursday and Los Indios Community Center has the lowest turnout, with 58. However, Garza said their presence is just as important.

Asked why he thought the library had the highest and the center the lowest, he replied it is due to traffic.

"How people move through their daily lives and whether they're going by these early voting sites as they go to work," Garza replied. "We try to provide sites that are on those heavily trafficked roadways and that are accessible so that



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

as you're coming into town you can easily pull off, vote, and then get back and do what you're going to do."

Texas Southmost College is the fifth lowest polling site with 351 ballots cast as of last Thursday in the Democratic election and tied for fourth lowest with Santa Rosa Maria Luisa Ruiz Guerra County Annex Building in the Republican, with 72 votes apiece.

Garza said different factors affect turnout at the college campus, such as class schedules and exams. He said numbers are similar when the polling location was at the UTRGV Brownsville campus.

"Usually, we like to have one week on one campus and one week on the other," Garza said. "Unfortunately, the [Texas] Legislature changed how we can establish polling sites, early voting sites and we didn't have the ability to share the polling site, the location. So, we had to select one over

the other and so, for this election, we selected TSC."

He said the Cameron County Commissioners Court and Elections Commission, which consists of the county judge, the county clerk, the county tax assessor-collector and the two local party chairs, made the decision, but the location might change for the November elections.

"That's not necessarily going to be the case when the November election comes around," Garza said. "They may decide that they would like to try it on the UTRGV side and see how the traffic is there."

For Tuesday, the elections administrator said the elections office expects a voter turnout in the range of 30,000 to 35,000 for the Democratic primary and 7,000 to 8,000 for the Republican.

The office does not release results until about 15 minutes after polling locations close at 7 p.m. so that people who may

still be in line when polls close will not be influenced by the results.

Garza expects a tremendous turnout for Election Day, Nov. 3.

"During 2016, we had almost 97,000 ballots cast ... and we think that's going to move even higher," he said. "I really think we will have a significant number of votes over the 100,000 mark this time."

Charles Olney, a political science assistant professor at UTRGV, said early voting is a good indicator of what total numbers will look like in terms of turnout.

Asked why some people cast a ballot during the early voting period and some do not, Olney replied that on Election Day, voters have to go to their specific precinct.

"[It] can be sort of a hassle versus early voting, [where] you can go to any location in the whole county, and I know for a lot of people that

convenience can be really helpful," he said. "And also, you can plan whatever day happens to be convenient for you."

Olney said that for the first time in a long time, there is a serious challenge to Eddie Lucio Jr., who is seeking re-election as state senator and has been in office since 1991. But, he believes Lucio will win due to familiarity and experience.

The assistant professor said voter turnout in Cameron County tends to be lower than in Hidalgo County, due to Hidalgo's population being larger in terms of eligible voters, but there are other factors, too.

"Generally, turnout is pretty low among communities of color, communities where people don't speak English as a first language, communities that are a little poorer and Cameron County does have a bit more of all of those things," Olney said. "So, it's not surprising that that would be the case but it's pretty similar. I don't think that there's significant shifts, differences between Cameron and other counties of the Valley."

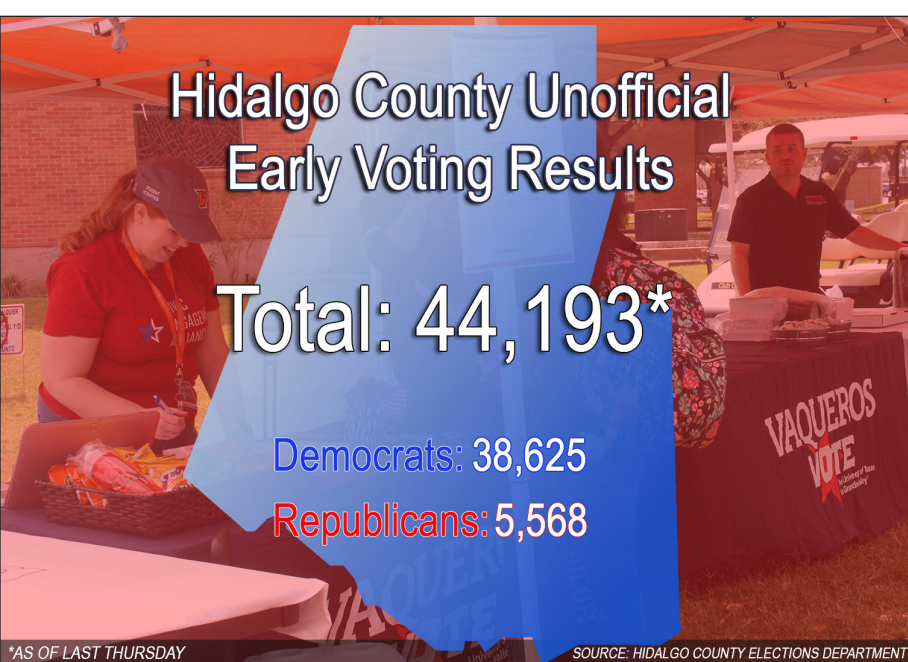
Olney believes it is important for students to vote as a matter of civic engagement.

"One of the benefits of living in a democracy is that you get to have the opportunity to try and, you know, play a role in politics and pay attention to what's going on around," he said. "We talk a lot about national politics but the stuff that really affects peoples' lives is generally decided pretty close by."

Danilo Castillo Hernandez, a political science freshman, plans to vote in the primary and general election in November.

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# 44,000 voters and counting in Hidalgo County



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Republican nominees for president, U.S. senators and representatives, as well as state and county officials.

Early voting started Feb. 18 and ended last Friday. This year's primary election has seen an increase in registered voters, compared with 2016.

"We had, at that time, 317,000 registered voters, and now, we have 379,000 registered voters," said Yvonne Ramon, elections administrator for Hidalgo County. "Over 62,000 more people registered."

In the 2016 primaries, 51,023 voters cast ballots in Hidalgo County. Of these, 41,562 were Democrats and 9,461 were Republicans.

As of Thursday, 38,625 Democrats and 5,568 Republicans had voted.

Even with more registered voters in Hidalgo County, it appears fewer people were voting on the Edinburg campus. During the same period in the 2016 Primary Election, 1,602 people voted on campus. However, between Feb. 18 and last Thursday, only 1,401 people had cast ballots in the Student Union, a decrease of 201 votes.

"I think that a lot of [UTRGV students] don't see politics as something that affects them," UTRGV political science Professor James Wenzel said. "They don't feel they have a place in it. ... They don't feel their vote matters and so they don't bother to get informed and to exercise their right."

Election Day will take place Tuesday. An ID is required in every polling location.

Yamileth Uribe, a political science senior, said she participated in this year's early voting and encourages students to be more politically involved.

"I think it's important to vote early because it increases the voter participation," Uribe said. "It's a way that we can, as citizens ... participate in our democracy. It's a way of expressing our opinion and [making] a change in our country."

Voters will return to the polls on Election Day, Nov. 3.

For information about Election Day or voting qualifications, visit [www.hidalgocounty.us](http://www.hidalgocounty.us).

**Hania Rocio**  
THE RIDER

As of last Thursday, 44,193 registered voters in Hidalgo County had cast ballots in early voting for the

March 3 Primary Election, according to unofficial figures posted online by the elections administrator.

The results of the election will determine the Democratic and



# YAQUERO VOICE



## SPRING BREAK



"I find it kind of awkward because when all of my friends are actually having their Spring Break, and they're coming down from their actual universities, I am already in school. And also, it's a real push when it comes to midterms. So, I have to study for my midterms ahead of others. Or, while everyone is at Spring Break at the beach doing their thing, I am either taking my midterm or I am already preparing for my final exams."

**Victoria Martinez**  
Psychology junior

"I honestly do not like that. ... Well, it's different because I live in this area compared to other people who are coming from other colleges. So, it's always good to have [college students] at the same pace, at the same rate. Whereas we'd have to schedule different things, like if I'm going to have to go somewhere else, well then, I am going to have to budget it in between those [times]. Because I have siblings who go to other schools, so in order to make anything happen within those times, it kind of throws it off because I am before and they are after [my Spring Break] and when they are after, I am already back in school, doing the Monday-through-Friday grind."



**Daniel Reyes Jr.**  
Biology sophomore



"Doesn't help, 'cause I have family who like to come down during Spring Break, so it kind of sucks 'cause my family is here while I'm at school. When on Spring Break, there's nobody there and then when they are in Spring Break, I'm at school, so it's kind of, like, inconvenient for me."

**Caleb Carcedo**  
Kinesiology sophomore

"In recent years, it's has kinda been a problem since my sister goes to another university and her Spring Break is either a week later or a week before. So, since she lives in another city, we would usually try to have some family time, like, on the same Spring Break, but since when she's down, I have school and then when I have school, she's back in school. So, it doesn't really work out."



**Kimberly Cervantes**  
English senior

--Compiled by Eduardo Galindo and Aaliyah Garza

# "P.U.T.I.N."



\*Pigeons United to Interfere Now



## Next Monday, we wear purple



**Paulina Longoria**  
THE RIDER

What would a day without women look like? Imagine. How many

female students would be missing their classes? Think about how many seats would be empty in your classrooms. How many women would not go to work? Guess how much this would affect the economy of the whole country.

What about a day without your mom? Now, imagine a day without your sister, grandmother, aunt, niece, girlfriend or even wife. I bet you would miss them. But what about a lifetime without them?

Mexico has long struggled with violence against women. Femicide is real.

According to the stopvaw.org, the term femicide "is used to describe the gender-related killing of women and girls, and it has been described as "the most violent manifestation of discrimination against women and their inequality."

On social media, Mexican feminist collectives urgently called out for a national strike due to the growing violence that affects not only women, but all residents of the country. On average, 10 women are killed every day in Mexico, according to statistics from Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública.

In 2019, 1,006 femicides were registered. This past January, 73 women were murdered. Unfortunately, some cases are never filed and are still missing from record, according to an article from Infobae.com.

The national strike, "El Nueve, Ninguna se Mueve," or "A Day Without Women," is scheduled for next Monday, March 9. The date was chosen because Sunday, is

International Women's Day.

On this day, no women will be on the streets, in school or at work. The goal is to create awareness on what the consequences of femicide are and to understand the social, cultural and economic impact women have in a patriarchal-ruled country that fails to respect and protect them.

Women who are unable to stop their daily activities for personal reasons may also participate by wearing something purple to show their support. The color purple represents feminism.

Universities across Mexico are showing their support for any woman who would like to step out of their jobs and classes. The state of Tamaulipas' government has also joined the cause and accepted that any woman who works for the government is allowed to take the day off.

It is important to mention some people are mistaking what will happen on Monday. Some men were even trying to create "a day without men," undermining the reason for the real protest.

This is not a vacation. It is a protest. Women are less than privileged in Mexico. Everyone needs to experience what life without women would be like.

During the last year, feminists were only ridiculed and mocked by their contribution to the movement. A feminist anthem was created, "Un violador en tu camino." This song, also known as "A Rapist in your Path," or "The Rapist Is You," was first performed in December 2019 by Chilean feminist collective group "Las Tesis" to call attention to femicide, rape and violence against women during a protest in Chile. It went viral and later became a defiant anthem in Latin America and Europe.

In early February, feminists protested in front of Mexico's National Palace, located on

Mexico City's main square.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had a message for the feminists that would participate in this event. López Obrador asked them not to do any more damage, just as they did when protesting in front of the Angel of Independence around August 2019.

The Angel of Independence is a monument located in the Paseo de la Reforma Avenue in downtown Mexico City. It was built to commemorate independence from Spain.

It seems that people care more about their monuments and walls being painted than women being killed. How can they defend their monuments and feel proud of their country when femicide occurs on a daily basis and justice is not being served?

There is still a week before the strike. Much can happen in between. So far, Mexico's president said he respects this national strike.

In regard to what the outcome of this national strike will be, I hope that people realize how important women are to the country and to society. I wouldn't like to think of what would happen if all the great women who are in my life disappeared forever.

This is not a fight against men. This is a fight against the patriarchal system that dominates Mexico's society. It will take many more generations to completely eradicate it. It may never be completely swept away, but the fight is not finished.

It is not a war between good and bad people. We can't measure the morality of anyone else, we can only start with ourselves and how much we can do to help.

I will not be able to stop my daily activities next Monday, but I will show my support for the strike by wearing purple. I would also like to encourage everyone else to show their support for Mexico while it cries for help.

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# SPI toma precauciones para los Spring Breakers

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
THE RIDER

Otro año nuevo trae un Spring Break con más estudiantes de universidad, así que, la ciudad de la Isla del Padre Sur planea las mismas precauciones del año pasado para resguardar a sus visitantes.

Claudine O'Carroll, jefe de policía de la Isla del Padre Sur, dijo que la ciudad ha incrementado sus fuerzas policíacas este año.

“Contratamos personas que son de fuera del área para apoyar el implemento de la ley que se necesita en la isla”, O'Carroll dijo. “E incluimos nuestros colegas de policía estatales y federales”.

Spring Break para los estudiantes de UTRGV será del 9 al 13 de marzo.

Ella dijo que en la semana de Spring Break gestionarán un centro de operación de emergencia.

“La gran idea detrás de esto es que, de esta forma, todas las agencias pueden colaborar diariamente sobre sus planes de seguridad y cualquier problema que surja durante este tiempo”, O'Carroll dijo.

Ella dijo que el departamento de policía tendrá un enlace para víctimas del crimen en caso de que cualquier tipo de situación se presente y alguien necesite ayuda.

O'Carroll también dijo que el personal encargado del control de tráfico estará



Eduardo Galindo/THE RIDER

Spring Break para los estudiantes de UTRGV será del 9 al 13 de marzo. Claudine O'Carroll, jefa de policía de la Isla del Padre Sur, le recomienda a los estudiantes de universidad que se queden junto a sus amigos durante sus vacaciones en la isla.

ubicado en las intersecciones principales para facilitar la circulación peatonal y vehicular y mantener la seguridad de ambos.

Al preguntarle por consejos para los estudiantes de universidad que visitarán la Isla del Padre Sur, ella respondió, “Creo que una de las cosas más importantes sería, ya sabes, que se queden junto a sus amigos cuando salgan”.

O'Carroll también alentó

a los estudiantes a usar el autobús de la isla, tener precaución en el agua, mantener sus pertenencias en algún lugar seguro y nunca dejar sus bebidas desatendidas.

El jefe de bomberos, Jim Pigg, dijo que lo crucial es que los estudiantes se aseguren de lo que está pasando a sus alrededores.

“Entendemos que las personas vienen para pasar un buen rato, tomar y dejarse

llevar, ya sabes, distraerse de sus estudios”, Pigg dijo. “Queremos asegurarnos que todos los que vengan regresen sanos y salvos a sus casas”.

Los jefes O'Carroll y Pigg esperan un Spring Break seguro.

“Queremos que todos se diviertan con los conciertos y lo demás que la isla tiene para ofrecerles”, Pigg dijo. “Otra vez, estén atentos a lo que pasa a su alrededor para que sepan lo que hacen y a dónde

se dirigen de manera segura”.

Esa misma semana, unos estudiantes de UTRGV participarán en el Spring Break Alternativo como voluntarios en diferentes ciudades en el Valle del Río Grande.

El Spring Break Alternativo es una oportunidad para que los estudiantes retribuyan a la comunidad, de acuerdo a Vanessa Sandoval, coordinadora del Programa de Liderazgo y Desarrollo Social.

Ella dijo que las oportunidades de voluntariado de este año se darán a cabo en diferentes lugares a través de Edinburg, Harlingen, Brownsville y McAllen del 9 al 11 de marzo.

Sandoval dijo que una ubicación será el Good Neighbor Settlement House en Brownsville donde los estudiantes ayudarán con el centro de alimento.

Ella dijo que, en el McAllen Nature Center, los estudiantes limpiarán los jardines y ayudarán en el Salvation Army.

Sandoval dijo que cualquier estudiante puede registrarse, pero el espacio es limitado a 15 personas.

“Es una oportunidad completamente gratis para que los estudiantes se nos unan. Vamos a proveer transportación, comida y alojamiento”, ella dijo.

Para más información acerca del Spring Break Alternativo o para registrarse, visite VLink.

## BREAK

*Continued from Page 1*

at various locations across the Rio Grande Valley.

Alternative Spring Break is an opportunity for students to give back to the community, according to Vanessa Sandoval, program coordinator for Leadership and Social Change.

She said volunteering opportunities this year will be in different locations across Edinburg, Harlingen and Brownsville from March 9 through 11.

Sandoval said one location will be the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, where students will help with the food bank.

“Some of the opportunities will also be outside,” she said. “So, in [the]

McAllen Nature Center, we'll be out there, I'm not sure exactly what it is, but more than likely it's going to be something like doing yardwork or helping the nature center pick up trash, whatever they may ask us to do that day. And the other is going to be the Salvation Army. We're going to go ahead and volunteer at their location in McAllen as well.”

Sandoval said any student is welcome to register, however space is limited.

“It is a completely free opportunity for students to join us,” she said. “We have, only because we're providing transportation, food and lodging, we're [accepting] 15 students.”

For more information about Alternative Spring Break or to sign up, visit VLink.

## REC

*Continued from Page 1*

“And, at first, they told me, like, there was nothing they could do about it. And then one of my friends, he talked to the coordinator for the intramural sports and she said that I had to fill out some form online and then we'll pick up the paper at ... the office right next to the rec.”

He said the issue was resolved last Wednesday.

University Recreation Director Kimberly Rottet said if UTRGV Brownsville students are facing the same issue, students can contact Brownsville UREC Program Coordinator Samantha

Villarreal or visit the recreation center, Room 2.610.

Asked how many UTRGV students attend the Brownsville rec, Villarreal replied, “Not enough.”

UTRGV students who take classes in Brownsville and pay the Recreation Fee, have access to the facility. Students who are denied access to the rec have to submit a request form in order to gain entry and must meet the following criteria, according to the UREC website:

- students must be currently enrolled for the semester being requested;
- students must have paid the Recreation Fee within their tuition and fees;

--requests must be made prior to the Census Day of each semester; and

--students must submit this request form each semester. Access will only be allowed a semester at a time.

TSC shares its recreation center with UTRGV's Brownsville campus community. Students of both schools pay a \$75 Recreation Fee each semester.

As reported by The Rider newspaper on Nov. 28, 2016, “Students who take all of their classes in Edinburg pay the maintenance and operation costs of the University Recreation Building in Edinburg and can only use that facility because of a

non-binding letter of intent regarding exchange of land and improvements and lease of improvements between the University of Texas System and TSC.”

Rottet said about 10 students fill out the request form per semester.

“We're still trying to kind of help students understand, that, like, some of our students don't even necessarily realize they have access to, you know, to that facility and know we're doing our marketing campaigns and plans,” Rottet said. “You're a Brownsville student, you have access to that, to that building. There may be a process we need to change. If you're an

online student or a distance-learning student, you live in one community over the other, but there's a process for that. So, the main piece being contact our university recreation staff and we'll be able to help navigate, for those maybe 10 students a semester, sometimes not even that.”

Villarreal said students will receive access to the Brownsville rec within 24 to 48 hours.

The Rider tried to contact Raul Cano, TSC Recreation Center coordinator, but was unsuccessful as of press time Thursday.

To access the request form, visit [https://www.utrgv.edu/urec/\\_forms/access-request/index.htm](https://www.utrgv.edu/urec/_forms/access-request/index.htm).

## RING

*Continued from Page 1*

Lynette Leader, a mass communication major.

“You know, like, it's unfortunate that I will not be purchasing a ring because I really wish I could be in the ceremony,” Leader said.

She said the lowest price available for a ring is still too expensive for her.

“That's gas money,” Leader said. “That's rent money. So seeing that pricing, I was just, like, that sucks but I wish I could be a part of something

because I have put in my work through the years.”

She said the rings do not look good on her hand.

“I already have big hands as it is,” Leader said. “[The ring] looks gigantic. It's nothing delicate, nothing small.”

Because of the size, Leader said she would not use the ring in the future. It would not be worth the money, she said.

Students who attend the Ring Ceremony must have purchased their ring through Jostens, the ring company partnered with UTRGV. This is due to

UTRGV's contract with Jostens that requires exclusivity, meaning students may only wear Jostens rings, Letty Benavides, associate vice president for Campus Auxiliary Services said.

“By having it as a separate requirement puts a heavy burden on students who already have maybe financial difficulties,” Leader said. “Students that are on payment plans trying to pay for their classes. ... So, a whole extra \$500. That's a whopping size.”

The first ring ceremony was held in 2017, after a survey was distributed

to UTRGV students through Qualtrics in 2016. The survey asked students what UTRGV meant to them and what attributes of the Rio Grande Valley were dear to them. UTRGV art students then created ring designs based on the survey answers and input from the Student Government Association, Benavides said.

“It was designed by students for students,” Benavides said.

Students were able to purchase a ring from Jostens for the 2020 Ring



# New chief in town

**Alejandra Yañez**

THE RIDER

After his retirement, former UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia passed on the torch to Adan Cruz, who plans to reinforce the relationship with and trust of the campus community.

UTRGV appointed the new chief of police on Feb. 21. Cruz served as the assistant chief of police before being promoted.

Cruz has worked in law enforcement for 30 years. He started his career at age 20 with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

In an interview with The Rider, Cruz said some qualifications he possesses for this job include his 26 years with the Texas DPS, where he retired as a captain of the criminal investigation's division.

The new chief also graduated from legacy institution University of Texas at Brownsville in 2006 with a bachelor's of arts in history and a minor in government.

Asked what the new appointment means to him, Cruz replied, "It's an honor to get this job. I mean it's a position that is important to the community, important to the Rio Grande Valley as a whole, because the university is an institution that covers and serves the whole Rio Grande Valley."

Some of the goals Cruz has for the department include continuing to expand community engagement, working with officers to improve the bike patrol program and keeping the department fully staffed.

Cruz has been working with the



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

The new UTRGV Police Chief Adan Cruz opens the door of a unit outside the police station on the Brownsville campus. Cruz previously served as assistant police chief before his promotion on Feb. 21.

UTRGV Police Department for three years.

"I really enjoy the work that I do with the officers, with our administration and it's interesting," he said.

Cruz said he anticipates the most challenging part of the job will be engaging with the community.

"The community engagement piece is always a challenge because we're constantly working to, you know, improve on the relationship and trust that we have with the campus community," Cruz said. "And it's not a challenge in a bad way, it's just

something that we're always working on."

Asked what his favorite thing about working at UTRGV is, Cruz replied he enjoys working and interacting with the officers on a daily basis.

He said one of the most important lessons he has learned that will help him in this new position is communication.

"I've learned that being able to communicate with the people that you work with, to get your ideas across so that you can all work as a team and be moving in the same direction to accomplish your goals, is

a big lesson," Cruz said.

Munguia said he is in full support of Cruz.

"I believed that he was going to be a very good fit and he had the correct temperament for the type of policing that we want to accomplish there at the university," Munguia said.

The former chief said the department has worked hard to establish integrity and morality and said that "by choosing Chief Cruz, we're gonna stay on that same path."

Some qualities Munguia said make Cruz the right choice for this position include his ability to connect with the officers.

"Just like myself, he keeps an open-door policy," Munguia said. "The officers are actually very comfortable speaking with him and he also has that dynamic with the university faculty and staff."

Asked what advice he has for the new chief, Munguia replied for Cruz to not change.

"He is what the university needs and just to keep on the same path that he's been on," he said.

On March 10, a badging ceremony for Cruz will take place on the Edinburg campus. The time and place for this event has yet to be confirmed.

Munguia retired Feb. 20 after serving as UTRGV's inaugural chief since 2015.

His final message for the campus community was reassuring the campus will be fine.

"These last five years went by very, very quickly," Munguia said. "I'm gonna miss the campus, but the campus is in good hands."

# SGA elections set for March 16

## UTRGV Student Government Association 2020 Elections

### Meet the Candidates Fair

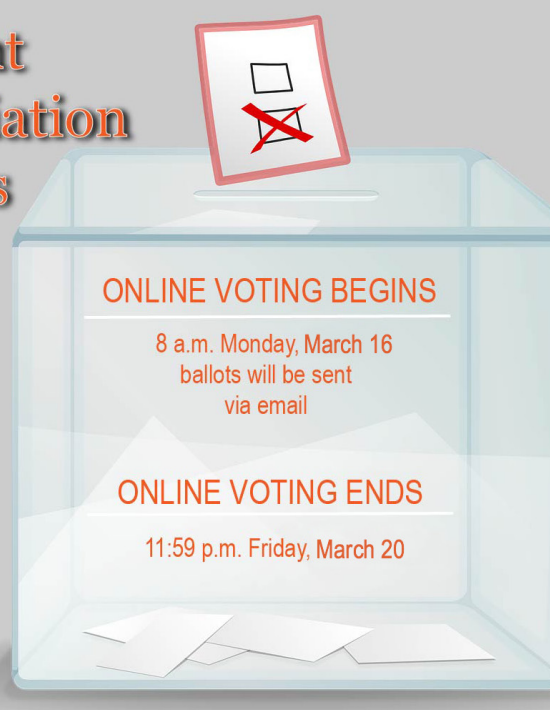
12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17

on the Student Union Veranda in Brownsville

Wednesday, March 18

on the Student Union Patio in Edinburg



Amanda Vela/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

### Omar E. Zapata

THE RIDER

The Student Government Association will conduct elections March 16 to 20 to fill legislative and executive positions, with two slates competing for the presidency and vice presidency.

#### Executive Ticket

Victoria A. Lozano is seeking the presidency. On the same ticket are Carlo

Rafael Flores-Carlson, vying for vice president on the Brownsville campus and Samantha Lucero Aleman Lopez for vice president on the Edinburg campus.

Oscar Alan Cazares is running for president. His ticket includes Daniel Errisuriz for vice president on the Brownsville campus and Franklin L. White for vice president on the Edinburg campus.

#### Legislative Ticket

Nancy N. Soto and Michael A. White are running for senator for the College of Sciences.

Yahia Omar Al-Qudah and Jose P. Rojas are competing for senator at large for the Brownsville campus.

Ariana M. Bravo and Janette Loera are vying for senator for the College of Liberal Arts.

Voting will take place

online from March 16-20. Students will receive ballots through their UTRGV email.

All UTRGV students will be able to vote for executive positions but may only vote for legislative positions in their college.

The SGA Elections Committee is composed of Jodie Dominguez, director of Leadership and Mentoring and co-adviser for the SGA; Monika Garza, Brownsville student representative; and, Michael Gonzalez, Edinburg student representative.

A "Meet the Candidates Fair" will be held from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. March 17 and 18 on the Student Union South Patio in Edinburg and on the Student Union veranda in Brownsville.

Election results will be announced March 24.

Yaw Sam, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, said it is a great opportunity for students to represent the student body and learn leadership skills.

"We learn more leadership skills," he said. "We learn how to be able to, let's say, do some public speaking."

Sam also credits the SGA for getting him more involved at the university.

"It has helped me get

involved very much in the university, know a lot of things and helped me with a lot of networking," he said.

As previously reported by The Rider, Ingrid De La Torre, who was elected SGA president last spring semester, was appointed back to her position at an SGA meeting on Feb. 7, after resigning on Feb. 1 due to what she called a "technicality" in the constitution.

The Rider asked Dominguez under what technicality Torre resigned.

Dominguez replied, "As the SGA adviser, I can only advise, you know, the facts in regards to when she resigned and when she applied again."

Asked whether Torre had to resign due to eligibility requirements, Dominguez replied, "Again, I can only state to the facts of when Ingrid resigned and when she applied again. Do you have any other questions in regards to the SGA elections?"

Dominguez asked if there were any additional questions so she could set up an appointment for an interview since she was running late for another meeting.

In an email sent to The Rider on Wednesday, Dominguez "respectfully" declined an interview regarding Torre's appointment.



# Promoting sustainability around campus

**Paulina Longoria**  
A&E REPORTER

On Feb. 24, the Festival of International Books and Arts celebrated Sustainable Food Day with the Farmer's Market hosted by the UTRGV Environmental Awareness Club.

The market took place on the east side lawn of the Student Union on the UTRGV Edinburg campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It was the best location, as throughout the day, the line to the *espiropapas* booth never seemed to end.

Besides *espiropapas*, the club also sold vegan brownies and traditional Argentinian *alfajores*, sandwich cookies rolled in shredded coconut filled with dulce de leche and quince jam. The drinks were coffee, sparkling lemonade and Hibiscus tea.

Suzanne El-Haj, a sustainable agricultural and food systems senior, is the Farmer's Market coordinator and a member of the Environmental Awareness Club. She said the event has been hosted since 2014.

"Our goal is to promote, like, local farmers and make sustainability," El-Haj said. "To promote eating locally and just, like, eating our vegetables, and just being aware of the local food system in the [Rio Grande] Valley."

She brought organic oranges from her own house's backyard for the market. The selection of fresh vegetables was donated by Edinburg's J&D Produce Inc. The business provided the club with cabbage, kale, beets and Swiss chard.

"I liked the health section where it's, like, the vegetables and plants ... because you normally don't see that ... in

the education environment," said Zalen Garcia, an English junior and theatre minor. "I think that's [the education side's] way of showing, like ... being healthy and ... helping the environment."

To encourage eco-friendly and healthy habits in the community, the club sold bamboo toothbrushes, bath sponges, tote bags, homemade candles and handmade soaps. Some members also donated clothes from their closet to stop fast fashion.

The UTRGV Human Environmental Animal League (HEAL) club was invited to participate in the Farmer's Market. At its booth, they were raising awareness of the meat production impact to the environment. Members asked visitors how much water they thought it took to produce one beef patty.

Michelle Rodriguez Dike, a local freelance artist and florist, was also invited to the market to display and sell her artwork. She displayed digital and sticker paintings. Other

paintings were created by pen, markers and colored pencils.

"It's just kind of a collection of things that I've done over the years, from showing cultural significance to, you know, going into things that are a little bit more spiritual in nature," Rodriguez Dike said.

Asked about the market's outcome, Marisol Cervantes, the Environmental Awareness Club president, replied, "It was a proud moment for us because all of our officers were there and giving it our best, and all of us were working really hard to make it successful."

The Environmental Awareness Club plans to host another Farmer's Market on March 26.

## The Environmental Awareness Club is planning to host another Farmer's Market on March 26.



Mariana Gómez/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Freelance artist and florist Michelle Rodriguez Dike shows her artwork to students Feb. 24 during the Farmer's Market on the Student Union lawn on the Edinburg campus. The Farmer's Market was organized by the Environmental Awareness Club as part of FESTIBA.

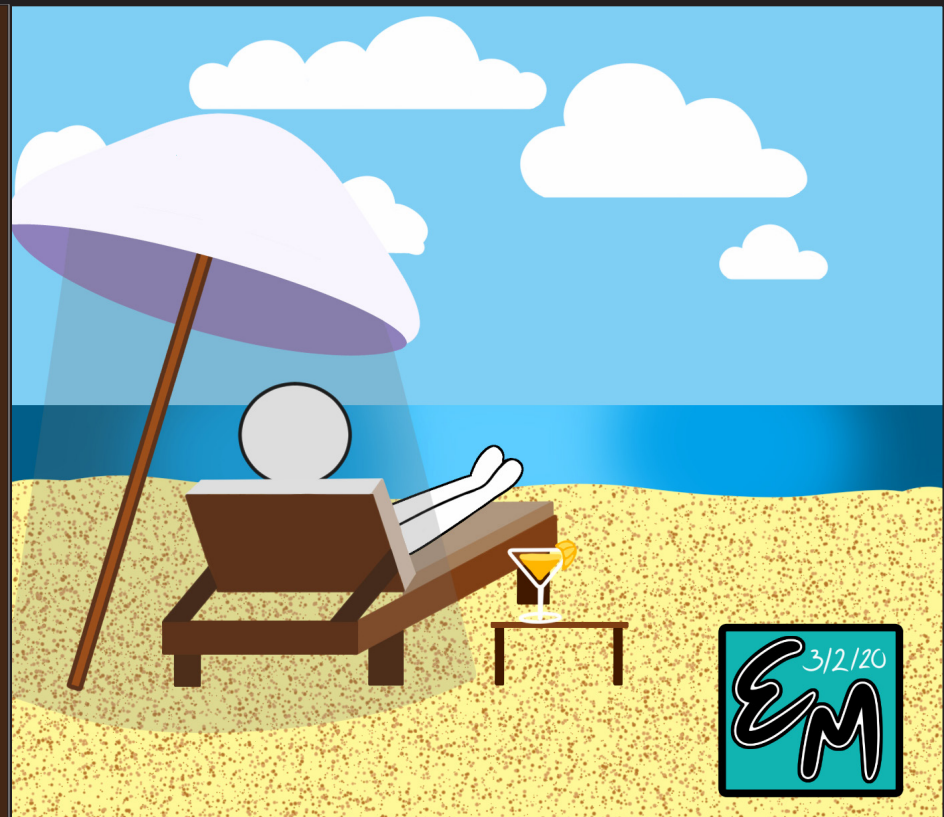


UTRGV students line up for the *espiropapas* Feb. 24 during the Farmer's Market on the Student Union lawn on the Edinburg campus. The event was part of the FESTIBA Sustainable Food Day. The Environmental Awareness Club plans to host Farmer's Markets on March 12 and 26, April 2 and April 23.

# The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza

Out for  
Spring Break!





# RING

Continued from Page 5

Ceremony via Jostens' website or on campus. The last day to purchase one was last Friday, according to the UTRGV website. To qualify for one, students had to have 75 semester credit hours.

Rings are customized by size, number of stones, type of metal and karats of gold, if chosen. As for the designs, the rings have a university seal on the top. On the side, a gonfalon from each college is depicted. Valley elements, such as palm trees, are also on the ring design. Palm trees are represented on the Presidential Medallion, linking the ring to commencement. To represent UTRGV, the ring also has arches on it. Additionally, sun rays are included to not only symbolize the Valley's warm weather, but also to symbolize "illumination, life, and rebirth," Benavides said.

After hearing several complaints about the ring sizes, Benavides asked Jostens to consider this matter. She encourages students to tell her what they would like to see in the rings.

However, Benavides advises against changing too many elements from past rings.

"If you change [the ring design] too much, then you're kind of going away from the intent of having an official link [between all graduated UTRGV students]," she said.

Asked about students' complaints of prices, Benavides said, "Different metals and different options will add or factor into the price. She said the most affordable ring would be made out of lustrium without stones or other customs.

"The design itself and just a metal, I think is beautiful, just like it is, you know, but ... it's a matter of preference," she said.

According to the UTRGV website, the ceremony itself consists of students signing an official registry and dipping their fingers in orange ink to show Vaquero pride.

"[The ceremony is] intended to help motivate [students] to finish their academic goals, to realize their academic goals," Benavides said.

Dean of Students Rebecca Gadson recommends students voice their

opinions regarding the rings.

"I think part of it is students have specific ideas that they'd like to have incorporated," she said. "It would be good for them to be able to compile that and be able to present that."

For students who want more variety for the rings, Gadson recommends contacting the department that handles the contract. She said students can also "bring their concerns forward to myself, or to talk [about] the details about what they might be looking for, for resolutions, or to the Student Government Association."

In October 2019, Leader uploaded a Facebook post asking other UTRGV students if they hate the class rings like she does. She received many comments that she wasn't the only one. Various students expressed their dislike with the size, the design and some students felt the rings didn't adequately represent the university nor the Valley.

After receiving this response, Leader and other students are interested in hosting their own non-affiliated ceremony.

"Nothing's like official official, but it

is the idea of [hosting a non-affiliated ceremony]," she said. "And I would think the more students that are interested in, we can grow it to, like, a larger scale type of event."

If the event takes place, any graduating senior would be welcome to attend. Students could also take their own piece of jewelry like rings, necklaces, etc. to symbolize their dedication. It would likely happen at a hotel, with baked goods and possibly have a photographer donate their service, according to Leader.

She said she might contact UTRGV officials about whether a possible partnership with the university could be made for the student-made ceremony.

"It'd be awesome if the school would partner with us and let us host this event but I know that goes into a lot more detail because of the Ring Ceremony," she said.

Whether or not Leader contacts UTRGV about a possible partnership, she believes this ceremony will most likely still take place.

"This [student-made ceremony] could be something that happens every semester," Leader said.

# VOTING

Continued from Page 3

Although Castillo will not participate in early voting, he believes it is important to do so in order to increase the number of people who go out and support.

"If people see that you are out supporting, it can motivate others to do so and join because they see the importance of people voting," he said.

Castillo said that if there were a polling location at the university, he would have considered participating in

early voting.

"Don't make assumptions and really try to get as much information as you can from all the candidates and to really understand what you're going for," Castillo said.

Julyana Lerma, a communication science and

disorders freshman, also plans to vote during both elections.

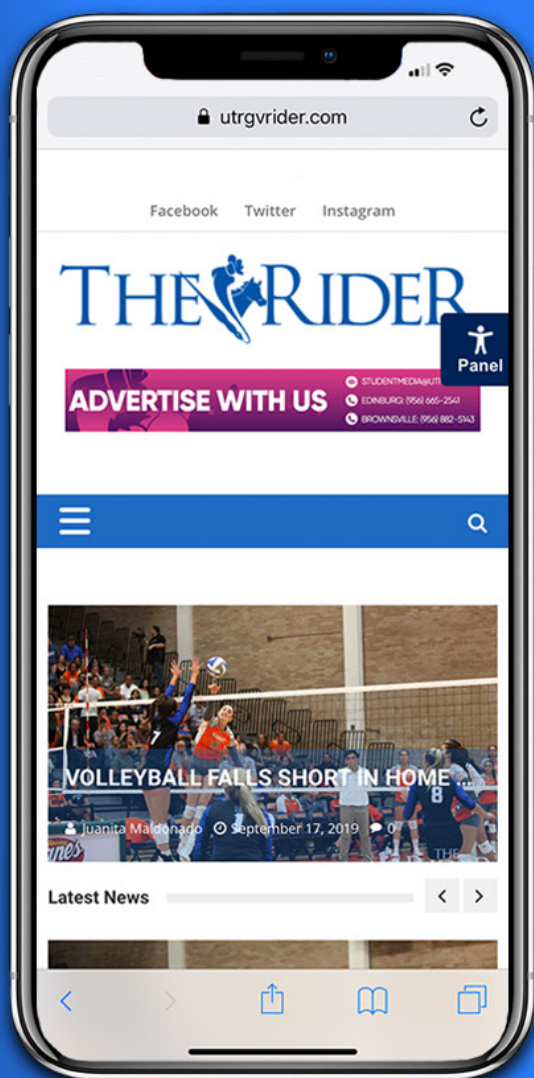
"I think it's important because you get to vote for the right person," Lerma said. "Let's say a president ends up winning and then he does, like, something bad about it and then you don't get to have

an opinion about it, so then you start feeling bad if you don't vote."

She said she would like to see a polling location at the university.

"Everybody should have the chance to vote," Lerma said. "It can change our world."

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# No spring break for athletes

**Aldo Nava**

SPORTS REPORTER

While most students are out on the beach or in bed sleeping until 1 p.m., UTRGV student athletes continue to compete during Spring Break.

Spring Break is filled with UTRGV athletic events every day of the break.

For some programs, such as track & field, there is still time left in the season. However, for men's and women's basketball, this week is more important than any other.

The teams will compete in the Western Athletic Conference tournament, which will determine who is the best in the WAC.

"The great thing about tournament time is everybody is zero and zero," women's basketball Head Coach Lane Lord said. "So, you got to have three great days, play together as a team, play team basketball and our league has a lot of parity."

Asked about the WAC Tournament, Lord replied, "There's no dominant team. So, you have one good weekend, you have one good chance to make the big dance."

Basketball will not be the only sport competing during the break. Baseball, women's tennis and men's golf will also compete away and at home.

## Baseball

The baseball team will take on the New Jersey Institute of Technology



Aldo Nava/THE RIDER ILLUSTRATION

Friday through Saturday at home. The team will return to the diamond on March 11 for the South Texas Showdown against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at the UTRGV Baseball Stadium. March 13 through 15, the Vaqueros will have home-field advantage once again against Texas Southern University.

## Men's basketball

The men's basketball team will play its last game before the WAC tournament against California Baptist University Saturday in the Fieldhouse in Edinburg. March 12 through 14,

the team will compete in the WAC tournament in Las Vegas for a chance to be the best team in the conference.

## Women's basketball

The women's basketball team will face off against California Baptist University Saturday at Riverside, California. On March 11, 13 and 14, the team will compete in the WAC tournament in Las Vegas, where it will attempt to redeem itself from last year's loss in the championship game against New Mexico State University.

## Women's tennis

The women's tennis team will

compete against the University of Houston at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Barbara Wallace Winston Tennis Facility in Houston. The team will hit the road again against Texas Christian University March 11 in Fort Worth.

## Men's golf

Men's golf will compete at the Colin Montgomery Invitational hosted by Houston Baptist University on March 9 and 10 in Spring, Texas.

## Men's and women's track & field

The outdoor teams will open the 2020 season at the University of Texas San Antonio Invitational on March 13 and 14 in San Antonio.

For both the men's and women's outdoor track & field, the season is just beginning.

"We're really excited about the outdoor season," Track & Field Head Coach Darren Flowers said. "We get to host the championships this year here in Edinburg."

Spring Break can be a distraction for some, but there is no time to be tired.

"I don't think it's going to be an issue this time around," Flowers said. "We're coming straight off of indoor. We're going to give them a week to recover anyway, then we're getting back into training."

For more information on UTRGV athletic events, visit [goutrgv.com](http://goutrgv.com) or download the GoUTRGV app.

# UTRGV assistant coach inducted into the Hall of Fame



Aldo Nava/THE RIDER

UTRGV Women's Basketball Assistant Coach Ipek Turkeyilmaz (right) looks on as redshirt junior guard Amara Graham focuses on the ball while practicing a play.

to the Americas, including culture and language barriers.

She came to the United States without knowing English, but the people around her and her passion for basketball broke that barrier at Barton Community College.

"It's a big honor," Turkeyilmaz said. "When I came to America, I couldn't speak any English. ... All the people helped me, from my teachers, my coaches, the friends, the teammates, from cafeteria people to [the] bookstore [people], everybody helped me so much."

One of the people who helped her develop the most was UTRGV Women's Basketball Head Coach Lane Lord, who coached Turkeyilmaz back in 2006-07 during her first two seasons at BCC.

"[Lord is] a hard [working man] and always being positive," she said. "He knows how to take [the] best out of you to shine. Basically, he [makes] you feel special. You feel his trust ... I learned a lot from him [about] being positive."

During her freshman year at BCC, she earned her nickname "3-pek," for her three-point shooting with an overall record of 41.9.

Turkeyilmaz broke program records, such as the most three-point field goals made, with 90 in a season and 8 in a game, along with an average of 40.4% in three-point shooting in 2007.

Breaking records left and right, Turkeyilmaz led her team to a regional championship and a fourth-place finish at nationals as a sophomore in

2008, according to [goutrgv.com](http://goutrgv.com).

She has also represented her country by being part of the Turkish Women's Basketball League.

Lord is proud of his former athlete, who is now his assistant coach.

"We're very, very proud of Ipek," he said. "I was her coach when she came to the United

**"We're very, very proud of Ipek. I was her coach when she came to the United States at Barton Community College and we brought her a little over 13 years ago, and to see her grow into, not only a great basketball player, but a great young woman."**

**Lane Lord**  
UTRGV Women's Basketball  
Head Coach

States at Barton Community College and we brought her a little over 13 years ago, and to see her grow into, not only a great basketball player, but a great young woman."

Lord said she leads by example.

"But in basketball, it always kind of translates, you know, as the ball is going into the hoop and she certainly did that," he said. "She broke the all-time record for most three-pointers made and career three-point shooting percentage, but was also just a great all around offensive player that made her teammates better. She's one of the best players I've ever coached."

Lord was able to present Turkeyilmaz at the Hall of Fame, which became a

highlight in his coaching career.

"I'm not in any Hall of Fame and I don't know many people that are, but for her to get that recognition ... it was a special time for all of us to be there," he said.

Turkeyilmaz's contribution to the team is mainly player development.

"She works individually and in groups to define the player skills, ball handling, shooting, passing all the things that she was great at," Lord said. "She's a great teacher of the game and the fundamentals of the game, and then, of course, she helps us in scouting reports and breaking down the other teams that we play. But really, her greatest contribution as an assistant coach is her constant positive energy that she brings to the team every day and the way she developed the players."

The team also enjoy working with "Coach T," and senior forward Megan Johnson feels proud that Turkeyilmaz's hard work and dedication has finally paid off by getting her into the BCC Sports Hall of Fame.

"She's just such a kind person," Johnson said. "Whether I have a problem on the court or off the court, I feel like she's someone that's safe to go to and talk to and she's always go, open arms and open heart to help anybody. She's just that kind of person."

Turkeyilmaz's induction into the Hall of Fame was a mark in her career; however, Head Coach Lord believes that she can also leave a mark at UTRGV by taking the women's basketball program to the highest level.

**Angel De La Cruz**

SPORTS REPORTER

UTRGV Women's Basketball Assistant Coach

Ipek Turkeyilmaz was inducted Feb. 19 into the 2020 Barton Sports Hall of Fame.

Originally from Izmir, Turkey, Turkeyilmaz faced many challenges when coming



# CHARREADA AT UTRGV



Susan Mireles/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Ballet Folklórico members Emmanuel Perez (from left), Elizabeth Stamatio, Eduardo Flores and Elsa Beatriz Vasquez perform on the Charreada stage on the Brownsville campus.



The Banda de Música Halcones de la Escuela Preparatoria Ricardo Flores Magon performs a medley of songs for UTRGV students during Charreada last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.



Majorettes of the Banda de Música Halcones de la Escuela Preparatoria Ricardo Flores Magon of Heroica Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, showcase their baton twirling during Charreada last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.



Interdisciplinary studies-bilingual sophomore Kimberly Hernandez (from left), biology master's student Celia Mclean, rehabilitation services sophomore Roxanna Hinojosa and visitor Julie Guerrero Reyes make floral headbands during Charreada, held last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville.



Freshman Lauren Skipper tosses a sombrero onto a cactus at the University Recreation table during Charreada, held last Wednesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. Also shown is biomedical science freshman Bunmi Oni.



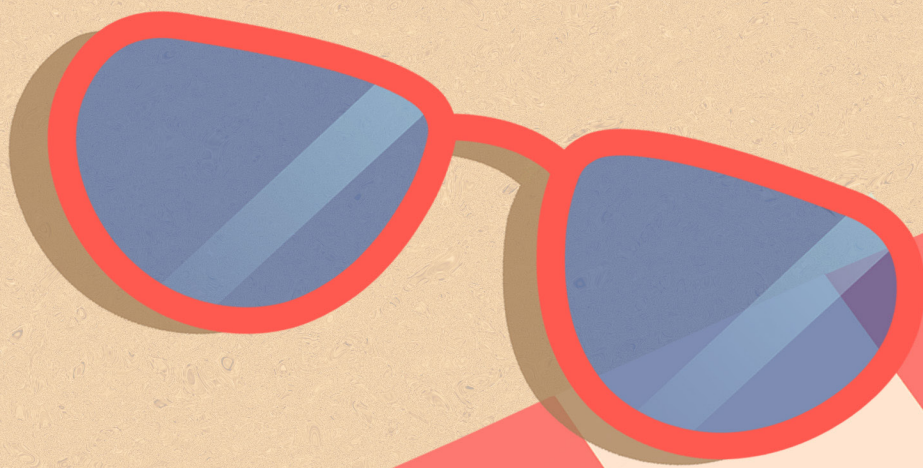
The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
.....  
Division of Academic Affairs

 **BEFORE**  

**THE BREAK**

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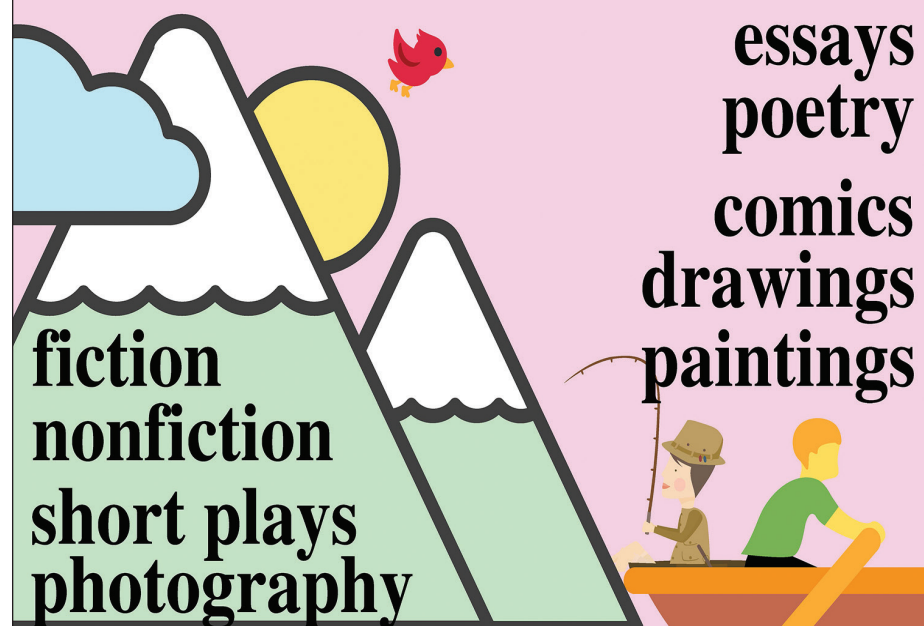
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