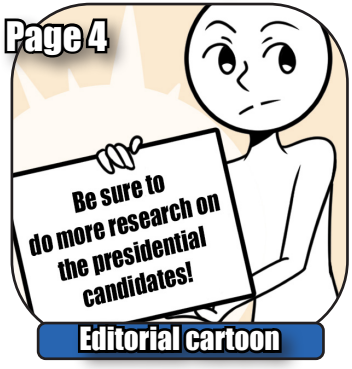


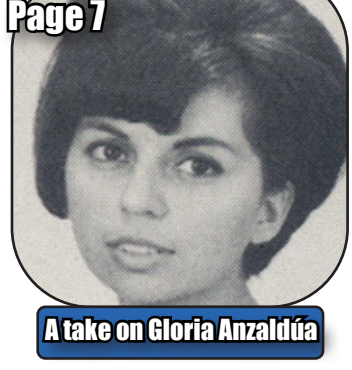
Page 3
Historic boycott



Page 4
Editorial cartoon



Page 6
Athlete of the Week



Page 7
A take on Gloria Anzaldúa

AMID THE CRISIS, ENROLLMENT RISES

Jacqueline Peraza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Unofficial enrollment numbers show a record 32,000-plus students are attending UTRGV this semester amid the COVID-19 pandemic, university officials say.

Magdalena “Maggie” Hinojosa, senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, confirmed last Thursday to The Rider there were 32,618 students as of Sept. 17, an increase of about 11% compared to Fall 2019.

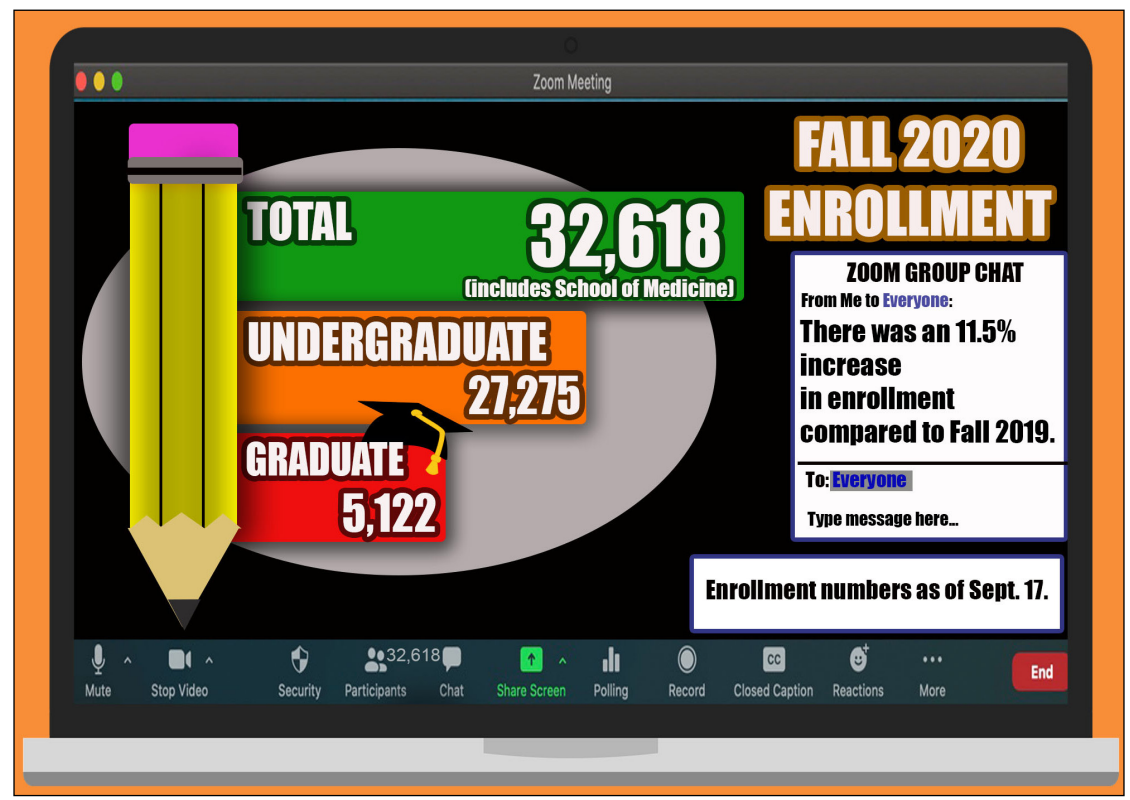
According to official UTRGV Enrollment Reports, there are 27,275 undergraduate, 5,122 graduate and 221 medical students.

The breakdown of undergraduate students is as follows:

- 5,350 new incoming freshmen
- 388 freshmen
- 5,278 sophomores
- 6,674 juniors
- and 9,180 seniors.

The undergraduate breakdown does not add up to the total number of undergraduate students because “there are other students (post bacc, certificate programs, etc.) that have to be counted in our undergraduate counts even though they are not in an undergrad classification,” according to an email sent by Hinojosa last Thursday.

Parwinder Grewal, dean



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

of the Graduate College and executive vice president for Research, Graduate Studies & New Program Development, said there are 5,122 students enrolled in the Graduate College.

Of those 5,122 students, 4,684 are pursuing a master’s degree, 375 are pursuing a doctorate and 65 are enrolled in certificate programs.

Grewal said the numbers

show a slight decrease since the preliminary numbers were released but that it is normal.

“That is normal because sometimes the student’s situation changes,” he said. “They cannot gather the money, or they have some other family issues. So, even after getting admission, and sometimes even after enrolling, then they say, ‘I will join next semester or I cannot really join.’”

Hinojosa said the four most pursued majors at UTRGV have not changed from last year.

“The top four majors are biology, criminal justice, interdisciplinary studies and nursing,” she said. “They technically haven’t changed from the year before.”

Grewal said the enrollment numbers are con-

See ENROLLMENT, Page 5

HIDALGO COUNTY ORDER
EFFECTIVE SEPT. 14, 2020

- Curfew is scheduled from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for all persons ages 18 and older.
- Business and outdoor events should be at 50% capacity. Gatherings are not allowed to exceed 10 people.
- Face-covering Violations:
First: Verbal/written warning
Second and subsequent violations: \$250 fine

Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Hidalgo County lifts shelter-at-home order

Omar Zapata
THE RIDER

Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez lifted the Aug. 19 shelter-at-home order and has implemented new protections that are in place until Sunday.

“Although our numbers are trending downward, COVID-19 continues to impact our community and remains a

dangerous threat,” Cortez said in a news release Sept. 12. “After much consideration, I have decided to lift the Shelter at Home mandate because I recognize the sacrifices made by those who have abided by this order. I also recognize that this restriction has caused some hardship with families.”

The new order, which took effect Sept. 14, still mandates a countywide curfew. See HIDALGO, Page 8

Campus Activities Board takes Fiestas Patrias online



RIDER FILE PHOTO

Students dance the *Huapango* in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus in 2018. In previous years, the celebration would include food, games, music, and photo shoots. This year, the Campus Activities Board ensure students are able to celebrate and interact virtually.

Paulina Longoria
THE RIDER

UTRGV students have a chance to win VBucks or a Nintendo Switch during the Fiestas Patrias virtual celebration today and Tuesday, hosted by the Campus Activities Board.

To increase their chances to win, students are encouraged to participate in as many games as possible. Every time students participate in an event, their

name will be placed in the drawing for the Nintendo Switch raffle.

Fiestas Patrias is part of the university’s observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

From 6 to 8 p.m. today, students will be placed in groups of five in breakout rooms on Zoom to play “100 Vaqueros Dijeron.” The winners will receive \$20 in VBucks.

See PATRIAS, Page 2

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. A PDF copy of the newspaper can be accessed online at utrgvrider.com. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jacqueline Peraza

ONLINE EDITOR

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SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Danielle Perez

COPY EDITORS

Arisbeth Rodriguez

Alejandra Yañez

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SPORTS REPORTERS

Karina Rodriguez

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SPANISH REPORTER

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REPORTERS

Sol Garcia

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Brigitte Ortiz

Alejandra Yañez

Fernanda Figueroa

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Aaliyah Garza

Jacqueline Wallace

Robert Benavidez

Roxanna Miranda

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Monica Llanas

Dorilee Saycocie

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Godinez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER

Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez

Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.

ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 2.16

Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today

Virtual Fiestas Patrias

The **Campus Activities Board** will have activities ranging from **100 Vaqueros Dijeron**, **DIY Minnie Mouse concha ears**, **online lotería**, a **costume contest** and a **grito contest** from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom as part of its **Fiestas Patrias** celebration. The event will also take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday. RSVP is available through VLink.

Strava 5K Cycling Challenge

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the **Strava 5K Cycling Challenge** sponsored by **University Recreation**. Participants will have to submit multiple attempts of cycling activity. The 5k (3.1 miles) can only be completed in a single bike activity. The deadline for submission will be 8 p.m. Sept. 28. The top three participants will receive a variety of UREC merchandise. All who participate will receive a small UREC promo item.

Tuesday

Voter Registration Day

Students can learn how to register to vote, the importance of voting and the potential of the Rio Grande Valley as a major policy and movement hub in observance of **National Voter Registration Day**. The event, sponsored by **Civic Engagement Alliance** and **Student Activities**, will take place from noon to 2 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

Wednesday

Virtual Coffee & Careers

The **Career Center** will host **career conversations** from 2:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday via Zoom. Students can register on Handshake and join the meeting with ID: 870 329 116. For more information, email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

Sip and Script

The **Student Union** will host **Sip and Scripts** to teach students **calligraphy** starting at 7 p.m. Recommended material includes dotted paper, Crayola super tips markers and standard black pens. RSVP is available through VLink

Thursday

Immigration Conversation

The **Civic Engagement Alliance** encourages students to engage, learn and listen to the **different perspectives on immigration** from 3 to 4 p.m. via Zoom. Must RSVP for a chance to win alliance swag.

Netflix Party: 'Jurassic Park'

The **Student Union** will host a **Netflix Watch Party** featuring the movie **"Jurassic Park."** Students can join starting at 3 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

Virtual Involvement Fair

The **Leadership & Mentoring** office will host a **virtual involvement fair** for all UTRGV students from 5 to 7 p.m. Fairs are designed to help both current and incoming students connect with organizations registered at UTRGV. RSVP is available through VLink.

Friday

National Comic Book Day

The **Student Union** invites students to dress up, share their favorite comics and learn how to draw themselves as superheroes in observance of **National Comic Book Day**, starting at 1 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

--Compiled by *Brigitte Ortiz*

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 4 and 13.



Sept. 4

3:54 p.m.: A male faculty member reported losing his university-issued key at his off-campus residence in Edinburg.

5:18 p.m.: Officers responded to the Academic Support Facility on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm caused by a damaged fire pull station. The pull station was damaged when it was struck by an unbalanced trash can rolling into it. The pull station was deactivated by Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management.

Sept. 5
8:18 p.m.: A male student reported receiving an unsolicited text message at his residence off campus after dialing a phone number on an adult website. The student reported he later received two alarming text messages on his phone from a person identifying himself as a Mexican drug cartel gang member. The student reported he was being charged a fine for allegedly visiting the website. He wanted to document the incident.

Sept. 7
4:18 p.m.: An officer on patrol observed a male on a bicycle traveling in Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus without the proper lighting equipment after dark. The

non-affiliated male was identified and a background check revealed a criminal history and criminal gang affiliation. The male was issued a criminal trespass warning and escorted off campus without incident.

Sept. 8

8:03 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Edinburg campus Academic Support Facility in reference to a traffic collision involving a university-owned vehicle. The operator was attempting to back into the wash bay and struck a light pole, causing minor damage to the vehicle. The light pole sustained minor damage. No injuries were reported.

10:29 a.m.: A non-affiliated female reported that while driving on the 100 block of North Sugar Road her vehicle's driver side window was shattered by a rock. The rock struck the vehicle while a ground maintenance employee was using a weed cutter to trim the grass in the area. The supervisor was notified and arrangements are being made to repair the window. No injuries were reported.

Sept. 9

5:22 a.m.: Edinburg Police requested assistance in locating an intoxicated female on the 100 block North Jackson Road While patrolling, officers in the area located a female fitting the description in Lot E36 on the Edinburg

campus. Edinburg Police arrived at the location and took custody of the woman.

7:10 a.m.: A male staff member reported damaging an electrical wire while mowing grass in the area of Lot E10 on the Edinburg campus. The electrical wire provides power to the COVID-19 testing site in Lot E10. A UTRGV Facilities Planning and Operations supervisor was notified and responded to assess the damage.

Sept. 11

3:53 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Academic Support Facility parking lot in reference to a male staff member reporting an off-campus single fleet accident that occurred in Brownsville. The staff member reported that he misjudged the height limit of a carport at an assisted living facility and struck it with a university vehicle. The accident occurred on Sept. 1 and was investigated by the Brownsville Police Department. No injuries were reported.

Sept. 13

2:15 a.m.: An officer assessed a power outage that affected the north side of the Edinburg campus. The officer informed Facilities Planning and Operations staff of the incident to have them assess the problem. The power was out briefly.

--Compiled by *Fernanda Figueroa*

PATRIAS

Continued from Page 1

"100 Vaqueros Dijeron" resembles a Mexican game show called "100 Mexicanos Dijeron," produced by Las Estrellas channel. The game is similar to "Family Feud," where teams of five players respond to questions from a host.

Alejandra Santos, a computer science senior and CAB's cultural committee chair, said the questions for the game will be about UTRGV and Hispanic heritage and culture.

CAB posted questions on its Instagram account to collect students' answers for the contest.

From 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, the organization will host a game of lotería, and grito and costume contests.

Students must register via VLink for each day of Fiestas Patrias. After registering, students will be sent individual lotería cards through email. The winners of the game will receive \$20 in VBucks.

For the grito contest, students must email a video of their best grito to cab@utrgv.edu by 5 p.m. today.

Santos said CAB will compile all submitted videos.

To enter the costume contest, students must wear their outfit during the event on Tuesday.

"For the costume contest, students sometimes dress up like Frida Kahlo ... Mexican, very colorful, very pretty," Santos said. "Any Mexican, Hispanic character that they like, or they can always dress up in the traditional red, white, green. ... Whatever they feel resembles mostly the Hispanic culture is good."

Winners of both contests will be determined by a raffle and receive CAB swag.

She said the grito and costume contests are held annually, but "100 Vaqueros Dijeron" is a new activity that started with the virtual events.

"It has never been programmed before by us, so it's gonna be very exciting to see how it is," Santos said.

Daniela Ramirez, a bilingual education senior and CAB's vice president of membership, told The Rider this year's Fiestas Patrias is different than previous.

"We are doing virtual events," Ramirez said. "Instead of bringing back the mariachi as we used to and having the jalapeño-eating contest, the taco-eating contest, there's gonna be other things involved because, of course, it's virtual. We have to find accommodations for students."

Asked what students can expect, Santos replied, "Something that we always like to promote is diversity. We want to celebrate the culture. [Fiestas Patrias is] a really big event that makes all of us feel really united considering that, like, UTRGV ... we are on the border. Most of the population that we have here are Hispanic students. It's always nice to feel a closer [connection] and even though it's virtual this year, we still wanted to do that."

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com



THEY TOOK A STAND

SOURCE: UTRGV SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Students are shown during the Edcouch-Elsa walkout in this photo taken by The Monitor.

Remembering the Edcouch-Elsa walkout of 1968

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

One of the walkouts across the nation that led to the Bilingual Education Act of 1968 took place in the Rio Grande Valley.

1968 was known as the year of the walkout and on Nov. 14 of that year, students from Edcouch-Elsa High School decided to boycott against the discrimination they faced as Mexican Americans.

Lali Saenz Moheno, an Edcouch-Elsa alumna, was a key leader in the boycott. She had just graduated from high school at the time and was a member of the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO), which advocated for the rights of Hispanic students.

“My brother came home one day, I had just come home from the college, and he told me that a group of young men that he hung around with were going to be kicked out of school because they were speaking Spanish,” Moheno said. “I told him, ‘No, they cannot do this to you. Enough is enough. They did

it to me and now they’re doing it to all of you.”

Moheno also experienced discrimination at the school. She said her counselors never spoke to the Mexican American students and did not encourage her to go to college.

Mexican Americans were not allowed to speak Spanish at school and all the farm-worker students were not allowed to be in the band, Moheno said.

“It was a really weird time, no appreciation of cultures,” she said.

When she found out her brother was undergoing the same persecution, she called MAYO for help. She said she had no intention of boycotting and simply wanted to negotiate with the school board on these issues. However, the board rejected their attempts.

Maricela Rodriguez Lozano, another alumna of Edcouch-Elsa High School, was an eighth-grader in 1968 and learned of the walkout through her

older brother who was in high school. The junior high and high school were housed in the same building at the time. Her brother attended the meetings in preparation for the boycott and was talking to his mother about their plan the night before.

Lozano overheard the conversation and wanted to participate since she felt the discrimination at the school.

“The Anglos would always sit in the front of the class and the teachers would make sure of that,” she said. “They gave first choice to the Anglos in participating in clubs and organizations.”

Asked how her parents reacted when they found out about her affiliation with the boycott, Moheno replied, “My parents right away supported us because they knew very well what I was talking about because they, too, had been discriminated against in the Valley over some jobs and things like that. So, they knew what we were talking about.”

Moheno said her role in the boycott

did not end on the day of the walkout. She said there were many meetings in regard to the demands of the students and she wrote the first set of them.

Asked what she recalled from that day, Lozano replied that the older students were holding picket signs and were yelling across the street.

She went to her first period class and during the next period she crossed the street, but once she crossed the street, they would not let her back into the school.

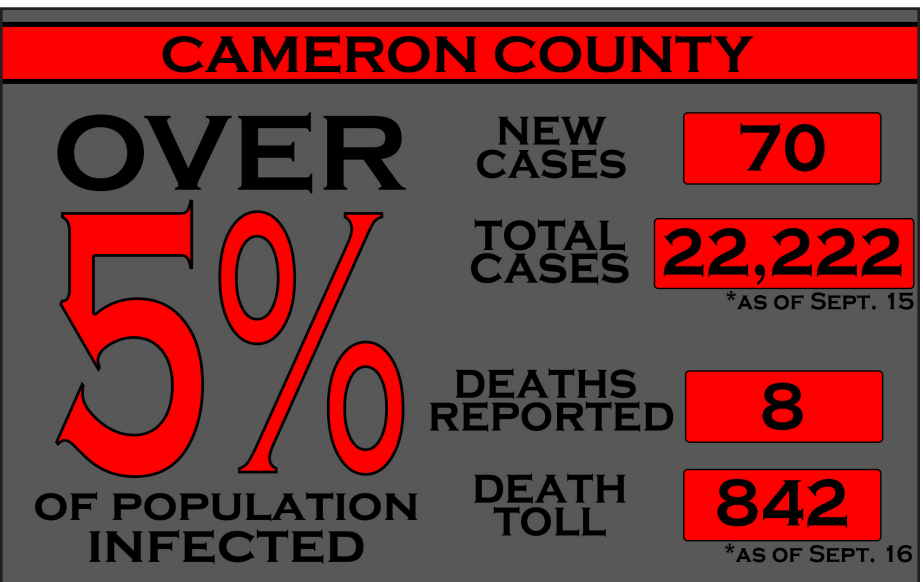
At the time, Lozano was a member of the cheer team, student council and had just been voted the football sweetheart. After the walkout, she was reprimanded and stripped of all her extracurricular memberships and honors.

Lozano said she is proud that she did the right thing, but the humiliation that she and her family endured afterward to keep her from being expelled was grueling.

“They were busing a lot of students over to La Joya and in order to not be a part of that I had to go in front of the

See **BOYCOTT**, Page 6

“The Anglos would always sit in front of the class and the teachers would make sure of that.”
-Maricela Rodriguez Lozano



Cameron County: Over 5% of population is COVID-19 positive

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

The Cameron County Public Health department has reported that over 5% of the population has been infected with COVID-19.

“There’s probably a whole lot more than that,” Dr. James Castillo, the health authority for Cameron County, said Sept. 3 during a Facebook live Q&A sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. “The CDC thinks that in some places it’s 10 times more than whatever you’ve proven and that definitely shows with what happened in our population with our death rate.”

Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. answered the public’s questions during the session, which was moderated by Daniela Banda of CBS Channel 4, and Donald Hamm, an AARP volun-

teer. Castillo highlighted some of the primary reasons he believes the Rio Grande Valley was significantly hit by this virus.

He said that once the restrictions, such as shelter in place, were lifted the virus “took advantage of our close family communities, our close relationships with each other and our social culture, and so it spread.”

The health authority reiterated that the county was hit severely in comparison to others in Texas.

“We don’t have subways, we don’t have skyscrapers, but we have close family units and we have many people living with obesity, diabetes, heart disease,” Castillo said.

As of Tuesday, the county reported an additional 70 COVID-19 cases, See **CAMERON**, Page 8

Edinburg City Council adopts tax rate, budget

Fernanda Figueroa
THE RIDER

The Edinburg City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 property tax rate and \$129.4 million budget.

The FY 2021 property tax rate will be \$0.06800 per \$100 valuation. The tax rate is the same as the one for the current fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2021 begins Oct. 1. The new budget totals \$129.4 million and the money is allocated as follows:
--\$67,865,000 for the General Fund
--\$1.5 million for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund
--\$1,150,000 for the Community Development Block Grant Fund
--\$6,614,018 for Debt Service Fund
--\$23,500,000 for the Utility Fund
--\$1,800,000 for the South Texas In-

ternational Airport at Edinburg Fund
--\$430,000 for the City Ebony Hills Golf Course Fund
--\$22,500,000 for the Solid Waste Management Fund
--\$2 million for Los Lagos Golf Club Fund
--\$2, 120,000 for the Boys and Girls Club Fund

The budget will also add 45 new positions as per City Manager Ron Garza. New positions include:
--11 in City Hall and a 2% employee salary increase
--seven in the Police Department
--six in the Fire Department
--five in Public Works
--six in Utilities
--four in park facilities
--and six at Los Lagos golf course.

See **EDINBURG** Page 5



SCREENSHOT TAKEN BY FERNANDA FIGUEROA TUESDAY DURING THE EDINBURG CITY COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM

The Edinburg City Council approves the Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate Tuesday night via Zoom. Shown are (from left, top row) Mayor Richard Molina, City Attorney Omar Ochoa and City Manager Ron Garza. Second row: Councilmembers Jorge Salinas, David White and Gilbert Enriquez. Third row: Councilmember Johnny Garcia.



SPANISH DESSERT

On Sept. 14, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which of the following would you consider to be your favorite Spanish dish?" The results are shown below.

facebook

CHURROS 34

TRES LECHES CAKE 29

ARROZ CON LECHE 16

FLAN CAKE 12



twitter

5 TRES LECHES CAKE

3 CHURROS

2 FLAN CAKE

1 ARROZ CON LECHE



Instagram

CHURROS 22

TRES LECHES CAKE 16

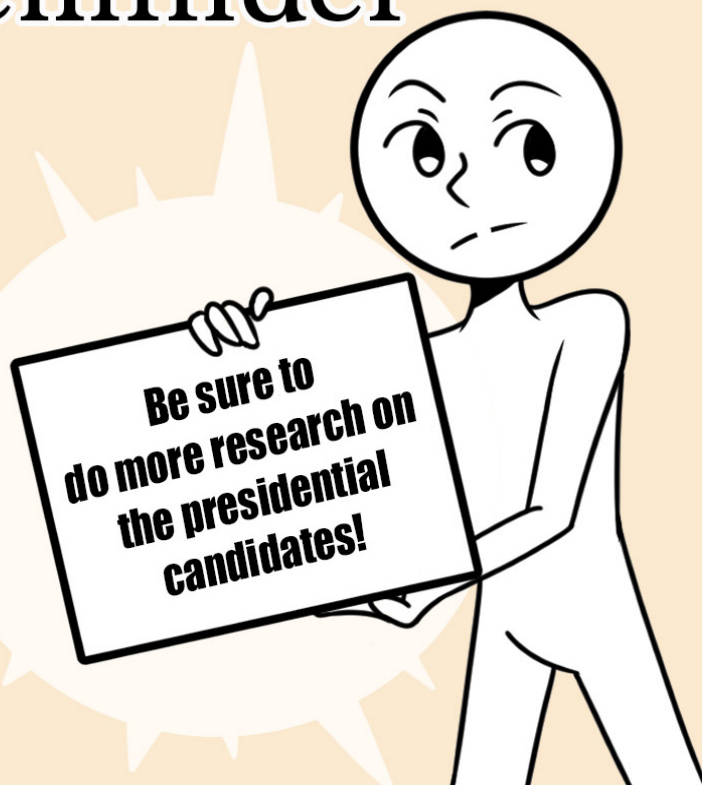
ARROZ CON LECHE 10

FLAN CAKE 10



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE
@UTRGVRIDER

A reminder



'Cuties': easy target for a problem no one wants to face



Aaliyah Garza
THE RIDER

When Netflix premiered "Cuties" on Sept. 9, the film was already garnering attention over the marketing mishap about a month before the debut. The audience cried out over the suggestive poses of the young girls on the movie poster. This outcry became louder after the film was released. Much of it is geared toward the sexualization of these young actors and the dance moves they perform.

I do not like this film. Story structure, characters and conflict do not do it justice. The sexualized scenes put the nail in the coffin for this film ever being good. After some thought, however, I've come to think that there is a sadder and sinister side to this film.

The movie reflects what is happening today with girls being influenced by popular media. While I have

always supported women expressing their sexuality, there is no denying that this does influence girls. You can control what you put out there in the media, but you cannot control what the effect will be, how people will perceive it, especially when it involves children.

Girls live in a world where they have to grow up fast, even if they never fully understand why this is, from wearing a bra at an age when your breasts haven't even protruded from your chest to needing to be aware of your surroundings at all times. You spend a lot of your younger years stuck at a crossroads between doing what you love and what makes you happy and doing what is expected of your gender. If you refuse or ignore these expectations of your gender, you will be judged, mocked and excluded from others.

Amy, the main protagonist in "Cuties," is stuck between two worlds: her traditional conservative Muslim upbringing and the modern world. She joins a dance team that is paired with the modern

world in an attempt to escape the traditional conservative values of her family. This isn't too far from today's society, in which a lot of women usually turn to embracing their sexuality as an attempt to separate themselves from conservative traditions. No matter what your viewpoints are about these two worlds, there is no denying that they are both under control by the male gaze. The male gaze is a sexualized way of looking that empowers men and objectifies women.

This film is an easier target for people to point their anger toward, especially during a time when anti-pedophile activism is sweeping social media. The issues that are depicted are happening right in front of them. Dance team uniforms, beauty pageants, preteen girls dating teenagers, that one cousin who at 16 was heading to downtown McAllen on a Saturday night, the mother who dolls up her kids as if they're 21. Do the people who are against this film call out these types of incidents in their lives? I wonder.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

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. 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.

Organización estudiantil lleva a cabo eventos virtuales

Paulina Longoria
THE RIDER

Los estudiantes de UTRGV tienen la oportunidad de ganar VBucks o un Nintendo Switch durante la celebración virtual de Fiestas Patrias el día de hoy y martes, organizada por el Consejo de Actividades del Campus (CAB, por sus siglas en inglés).

Para incrementar sus posibilidades de ganar, se alienta a los estudiantes a participar en los más juegos posibles. Cada vez que un estudiante participa en un evento, su nombre entrará en el sorteo de la rifa del Nintendo Switch.

Fiestas Patrias es parte de la observancia de la universidad del Mes de la Herencia Hispana.

De 6 a 8 p.m. hoy, los estudiantes serán divididos en salas de subgrupos de cinco en Zoom para jugar "100 Vaqueros Dijeron". Los ganadores recibirán 20 dólares en VBucks.

"100 Vaqueros Dijeron" asemeja al concurso de televisión mexicano "100 Mexicanos Dijeron", producido por el canal de Las Estrellas. El juego es similar a "Family Feud", donde equipos de cinco jugadores responden preguntas de un locutor.

Alejandra Santos, una estudiante de último año de ciencias de la computación y



Estudiantes de UTRGV pintan maracas durante la celebración de Fiestas Patrias del 2018. El Consejo de Actividades del Campus organiza el evento cada año en honor al Día de la Independencia de México. Este año, el evento se llevará a cabo de 6 a 8 p.m. hoy y de 6 a 7 p.m. el martes por Zoom

presidenta del comité cultural de CAB, dijo que las preguntas para el juego serán sobre UTRGV y la herencia y cultura hispana.

CAB subió preguntas en su cuenta de Instagram para recolectar las respuestas de los estudiantes para el concurso.

El martes de 6 a 7 p.m., la organización llevará a cabo un juego de lotería y concursos de disfraces y el grito.

Los estudiantes deben registrarse por VLink para cada día de Fiestas Patrias. Después de registrarse, se les enviará una carta individual de lotería por correo electrónico. Los ganadores del juego recibirán 20 dólares en VBucks.

Para el concurso del grito, los estudiantes deben mandar un video de su mejor grito por correo electrónico a cab@utrgv.edu el día de hoy hasta a

las 5 p.m.

Santos dijo que CAB compilará todos los videos enviados.

Para entrar al concurso de disfraces, los estudiantes deben usar su atuendo durante el evento del martes.

"Para el concurso de disfraces, los estudiantes a veces se disfrazan de Frida Kahlo ... mexicano, muy colorido, muy bonito", Santos dijo. "Cualquier personaje mexicano, his-

pano que les guste, o siempre se pueden disfrazar en los colores tradicionales verde, blanco, rojo. ... Lo que sea que sientan que se asemeja a la cultura hispana está bien".

Los ganadores de los dos concursos se determinarán con una rifa y recibirán regalos de CAB.

Ella dijo que los concursos del grito y de disfraces se llevan a cabo anualmente pero, "100 Vaqueros Dijeron" es una nueva actividad que empezaron con los eventos virtuales.

"Nunca la hemos programado antes, así que será muy emocionante ver cómo saldrá", Santos dijo.

Daniela Ramírez, una estudiante de último año de educación bilingüe y vice presidenta de membresía de CAB, le contó a The Rider que la celebración de Fiestas Patrias de este año es diferente a las anteriores.

"Estamos haciendo eventos virtuales", Ramirez dijo. "En vez de traer al mariachi como lo hacíamos y tener un concurso de comer jalapeños, el concurso de comer tacos, habrán otras cosas involucradas porque, por supuesto, es virtual. Tenemos que encontrar una manera para que los estudiantes puedan adaptarse".

Se le preguntó a Santos qué **Vea FIESTAS, Página 8**

Aumentan inscripciones durante la pandemia

Jacqueline Peraza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Las cifras no oficiales de las inscripciones enseñan un récord de que más de 32,000 estudiantes asisten a UTRGV este semestre a pesar de la pandemia COVID-19, según los funcionarios de la universidad.

Magdalena "Maggie" Hinojosa, vice presidenta superior de Inscripción Estratégica y Asuntos Estudiantiles, le confirmó el jueves pasado a The Rider que había 32,618 estudiantes el 14 de septiembre, un incremento de 11% comparado al otoño de 2019.

Según Reportes de Inscripciones de UTRGV, hay 27,275 estudiantes de pregrado, 5,122 de posgrado y 221 estudiantes de medicina.

El desglose de los estudiantes de pregrado es el siguiente:

- 5,350 estudiantes de primer año de nuevo ingreso
- 388 de primer año

- 5,278 de segundo año
- 6,674 de tercer año
- y 9,180 de último año.

El desglose de estudiantes de pregrado no suma al número total de estudiantes de pregrado porque "hay otros estudiantes (posgrado, doctorado, programas de certificación, etc.) que necesitan contarse en las cifras de estudiantes de pregrado aunque no estén en la misma clasificación", según un correo enviado por Hinojosa el jueves pasado.

Parwinder Grewal, decano de la Facultad de Posgrado y vice presidente ejecutivo de Investigación, Estudios de Posgrado y Desarrollo de Programas Nuevos, dijo que hay 5,122 estudiantes inscritos en la Facultad de Posgrado.

De esos 5,122 estudiantes, 4,684 están estudiando una maestría, 375 un doctorado y 65 están inscritos en programas de certificación.

Grewal dijo que las cifras enseñan un ligero descenso desde que las cifras

preliminares fueron divulgadas, pero es normal.

"Es normal porque a veces la situación de los estudiantes cambia", él dijo. "Ellos no pueden juntar el dinero o tienen otros problemas familiares. Entonces, aún después de ser admitidos y, a veces hasta después de inscribirse, ellos dicen, 'Voy a entrar el próximo semestre' o 'En realidad, no puedo entrar'".

Hinojosa dijo que las cuatro carreras en las que más alumnos se inscriben en UTRGV no han cambiado desde el año pasado.

"Las cuatro carreras más estudiadas son biología, criminología, estudios interdisciplinarios y enfermería", ella dijo. "Técnicamente, no han cambiado desde el año anterior".

Grewal dijo que las cifras de inscripciones son consideradas oficiales después de que la Oficina de Análisis Estratégico e Información Institucional (SAIR, por sus siglas en

ing (SAIR) approves them. "[SAIR finalizes] the numbers and they will work on it in a few days," he said. "But, because we have already done the final drops and

also Census Day has occurred ... these are pretty much the final numbers."

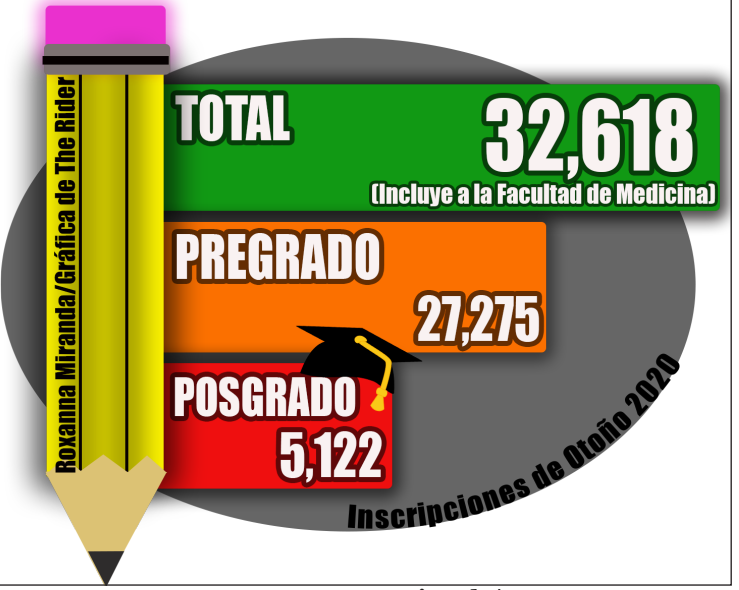
Enrollment numbers are not certified until they are reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October,

and in the quantity they were ordered.

He said the county has scheduled teleconference with city managers to clarify the next steps needed to be taken to qualify to receive an additional \$1.821 million in funds and the city is planning a budget amendment for Oct. 6.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act spending includes:

- \$2,325 in COVID-19 employee testing
- \$8,932.50 in UV sanitizing light disinfectant wands
- \$6,795.80 in foggers
- \$2,482.70 in hand sanitizer gallons



Roxanna Miranda/GRÁFICA DE THE RIDER

inglés) las aprueba.

"[SAIR aprueba] las cifras y trabajarán en ellas en los próximos días", él dijo. "Pero, ya que ha pasado el día del censo y la fecha límite de dar clases de baja ... estas son, básicamente, las cifras finales".

Las cifras de inscripciones no son oficiales hasta que las reporten a la Mesa de Coordinación de Educación Superior de Tejas (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

Hinojosa said in an email.

ShesaidUTRGVisproudofits students for continuing to work hard during these times.

"I just would like to add that we're extremely proud of our students during these un-

precedented times and their resiliency to doing everything they possibly can to continue their education," Hinojosa said.

approaches, they should follow safety measures and, "not let our guards down."

"Let's continue the social distancing, the personal hygiene and the safety measures from state, county and local officials," Molina said.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

ENROLLMENT Continued from Page 1

considered official after the Office of Strategic Analysis and Institutional Report-

EDINBURG Continued from Page 3

Garza also provided a quick update on the CARES Act, which is an allocation of \$11.5 million provided by the county. City officials are working to ensure the products they ordered are received in a timely manner

Conference launches vote awareness initiative

Ivan Palacios

THE RIDER

Gabriela Gonzalez

PULSE

Sports organizations nationwide have taken steps to support and encourage civic engagement from its athletes and fans. The Western Athletic Conference followed suit on Sept. 8, announcing the implementation of its new voter awareness program, WAC Votes.

“WAC Votes aims to educate student-athletes on the importance of voting and exercising their civic responsibility leading up to, on, and beyond Election Day. This initiative will also provide student-athletes with non-partisan resources to promote voter awareness, access to education regarding state-by-state voter opportunities,” the WAC said in a news release Sept. 8.

Along with the WAC Votes initiative, the conference agreed to designate Nov. 3, Election Day, as a required off day for all student athletes in the conference, giving them the chance to go out and exercise their right to vote.

The creation of the program comes after discussions held by the WAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which consists of two student athletes from each of the nine teams in the conference. The decision on the program was unanimous as athletic

directors from each team in the conference voted yes to its implementation.

“It’s super encouraging to see [the WAC] support our ideas which I think just makes us more encouraged to try and do more,” said Rachel Yu of the UTRGV Women’s Golf Team, vice president of the

“It’s great to learn that we can actually make a change and we actually have a route that we can take to be effective.”

-Jamal Gaines

WAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee and president of the UTRGV Student Athlete Advisory Committee. “That’s the biggest thing. Even among UTRGV, the whole entirety of WAC Votes is to allow people a chance and an opportunity to become educated, to have their voice be heard. This is just that middle part to allow that to happen. It just shows that they have our back 100%.”

Yu knew going into the summer that with this being an election year, implementing a program of this nature was a priority.

“This was brought up pretty much during the sum-



Robert Benavidez/THE RIDER
Jamal Gaines, a men’s basketball team senior and vice president of UTRGV Student Academic Athletes Committee, speaks about using his platform to raise awareness of voting during an interview via Zoom.

mer during our WAC SAAC summer calls,” Yu said. “We understood that this year with a lot of the social injustices and those events going on in the summer and with this also being an election year, there was just a lot of stuff going on. We just knew that we had a lot to do this summer.”

While the creation of WAC Votes is a big step for the conference, Yu believes this is only the beginning.

“In terms of doing more, we are doing an initiative right now for this year and we’re going to be making an initiative and a recommendation for all the following years,” she said. “I think it’s just going to be kind of a chain effect, starting at a national level and then let’s see if we can get more people involved on their regional level in their local elections.”

WAC Votes serves as being a voice of change for athletes, coaches, staff and fans. The 2020 election is arguably one of the most consequential elections in our country’s history, empowering people to perform their civil responsibility.

“I personally have learned a

lot from the steps that I’ve been taking with this initiative. It’s very encouraging,” said Jamal Gaines, UTRGV men’s basketball player and vice president of UTRGV SAAC. “It’s great to learn that we can actually make a change and we actually have a route that we can take to be effective.”

Growing up, Gaines remembers seeing NBA professional LeBron James using his platform as a way to be vocal about ongoing issues. Now, the conversation continues in the locker room with his teammates and his coach.

“[UTRGV Head Basketball] Coach [Lew] Hill does an



Additional voting resources

wacsports.com/
wac-votes

amazing job. He is always showing us videos and always

gives us books to read to make sure we stay up to date and continue to learn,” Gaines said. “He’s made it a point that everybody is registered to vote this year and hammering in that we could use our platform and taking necessary steps to make everything better.”

Gaines anticipates that WAC’s and UTRGV SAAC’s

next step with this initiative is to emphasize the importance of voting in every election. To further assist in achieving the goals for WAC Votes, UTRGV’s athletic program ensures that academic advisers, coaches and staff communicate with the athletes every single day. The athletic program also plans to reach out to their fans via social media.

“We are going to start implementing voter tips and voter information on our social media pages,” said Julia Perez, coordinator for Student Development and administrative representative for the WAC SAAC. “From now on, every Wednesday, we’re going to post a new tip or new information.”

These community outreach posts will incorporate mail-in ballot information, registration dates and deadlines, and early voting and Election Day schedules to keep people informed, as Nov. 3 approaches.

For additional resources on voting, students can visit <https://wacsports.com/wac-votes>.

Athlete of the Week: Halie Jones

Sophomore exercise science major Halie Jones is a guard on the UTRGV Women’s Basketball Team. She began her collegiate athletic career during the 2019-2020 season. In her first season, Jones played in 30 games and scored her career-high 20 points with six three-pointers at the UTRGV vs. Texas Lutheran game.

Q: What inspired you to start playing basketball?

A: “Honestly, I grew up in a very athletic family. So, it was just like what I grew up doing. So we would always be outside, either playing football, basketball, you know, anything. So, basketball really just came naturally to me. I was

just always better than, like, my cousins and everything. So I figured, like, I would just start playing for the school and then it just went from there.”

Q: What is your favorite part of your sport?

A: “Probably, like, just the chemistry of basketball and how close you are with your teammates. You travel all over the United States and you meet so many new friends and probably that, that’s my favorite part.”

Q: Why do you feel you’re good at your sport?

A: “I feel like I’m good at my sport because I feel like I can change the dynamic and I feel ... everyone brings in, like,

something different on the court. I just started going in there and just worked hard. Just started with simple stuff like get defensive stops or rebounds.”

Q: Besides basketball, what are some of your favorite hobbies?

A: “Recently, me and my roommates have gotten into painting. Especially with everything shut down, like, you can’t just go to Top Golf. You can’t just go do anything anymore. So, we just started painting. We paint like every day.”

Q: What is your favorite guilty pleasure movie and why?

A: “I guess ‘Grease’ because I am actually watching it right



COURTESY PHOTO STAVERNE JOSEPH
UTRGV Women’s Basketball Team guard Halie Jones (right).

now. It is such a good movie. I do not know why nobody says ‘Grease’ when people ask them

about their favorite movie.”

-Compiled by Karina Rodriguez

BOYCOTT

Continued from Page 3

board and the administrators and ask them for forgiveness,” she said.

However, Lozano was still suspended for about two weeks. About 175 students were expelled from Edcouch-Elsa High School because of the boycott.

She said few students asked for forgiveness and the main leaders were bused to La Joya

High School and not allowed back to Edcouch-Elsa.

Asked how it feels to know that she was a part of the walk-out, Lozano replied, “I’m very proud, and if I was asked, ‘Would you do it again?’ Yes, I would, but it does bring back a lot of ill feelings still. Like I told you, the humiliation that I put my mom through by walking out. I know she knew that it was the right thing to do but she just didn’t like to cause any trouble.”

Moheno said she paid the price for her affiliation in the walkout as well.

“I wasn’t invited to a lot of the reunions or homecoming games and that was the price I paid,” she said.

Despite the consequences, Moheno said she is proud of the results from that day and of the work everyone did to get the school to where it is today.

“Eventually we had a very big impact and you can see that to-

day,” she said.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Bilingual Education Act, which paved the way for Hispanic representation at the federal level. The act “encouraged instruction in a language other than English as well as cultural awareness,” according to the National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education website, ncela.ed.gov. In 1974, the act was amended to define “a bilingual education

program as one that provided instruction in English and in the native language of the student to allow the student to progress effectively through the educational system.”

Asked what message they have for today’s Hispanic students, both women replied that students should be proud of their culture, speak up for what they know is right and not be afraid to make changes when necessary.

Hispanic Heritage Month

A take on Gloria Anzaldúa

Karina Rodriguez

THE RIDER

A UTRGV political science professor encourages people to read works by the late award-winning author Gloria Anzaldúa, a University of Texas Pan-American alumna who wrote about feminism, cultural identity and queer theories.

Anzaldúa's book, "Borderlands/La Frontera," is one of Professor William Sokoloff's requirements for a lower-division political science course.

The author, who was born in the Rio Grande Valley in 1942, received many awards, including the Lambda Lesbian Small Book Press Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Award and a Sappho Award of Distinction. She died in 2004.

Sokoloff said Anzaldúa's use of different languages in her works makes her very special.

"I would say bridging and code-switching," he said. "I think these ideas have very important political applicability in terms of the capacity, the capacity to mediate between different languages."

Bridging is the process of teaching in dual languages. Code-switching is the practice of using two different languages interchangeably.

People from the Rio Grande Valley can find many of their own experiences in Anzaldúa's works because she wrote about topics centered on the Hispanic culture. As a Rio Grande Valley native, Anzaldúa provided a powerful voice in her works that can resonate through

Gloria Anzaldúa UTPA Yearbook Photos



1966



1967



1968

UTPA YEARBOOK PHOTOS

many generations in the Valley.

"So, I wish she was more influential, actually," Sokoloff said. "It's very rare to encounter students that know anything about Anzaldúa before they arrive at UTRGV. So, I think that is an unfortunate reality. In terms of broad influence, I am not so sure she has that, even in the Rio Grande Valley. But for me, what makes her powerful is her voice as a writer."

Throughout Anzaldúa's career, she discussed many important issues in regard to gender roles, the LGBTQ community and Hispanic culture. Since she discussed sensitive topics, some of her works have faced some criticisms.

"She does say some rather provocative things about, sort of, Mexican culture, at least her experience of it in the valley and she is quite critical," Sokoloff said. "This is a source of a lot of controversy. She states, for example, that ... certain aspects of Mexican culture cripple the lives of women."

The professor said he agrees with the author on some topics.

"I am inclined to say I don't agree with everything she says, but I can tell you what I do agree with," Sokoloff said. "I agree with her that women need to have more options. I believe her that there's a queer in all of us whether we want to acknowledge it or not and that

masculinity and femininity are in flux."

Despite her controversial writing, he believes that Anzaldúa's works should be read more in general and even instructionally.

"This institution is one of the dominant Hispanic-serving institutions in the country, and yet, there is not an undergraduate degree in Mexican American Studies," Sokoloff said. "So, this is curious, but it's really about the lack of the support from the administration, as far as I understand it, for such degree."

Sokoloff said more people should read Anzaldúa's work.

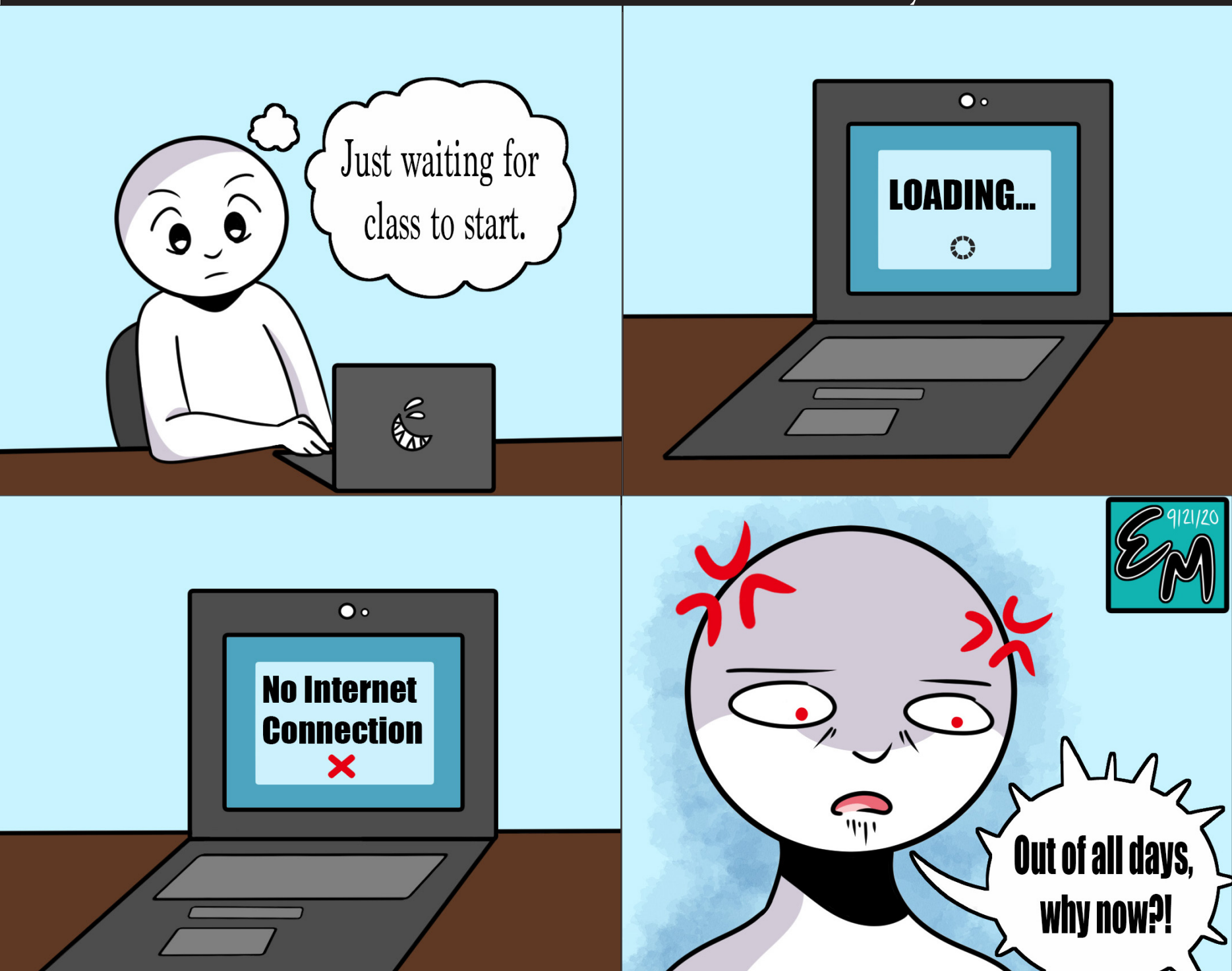
"I would encourage people to read Gloria Anzaldúa," he said. "I think she is a brilliant writer, a genius. Her voice as an author is amazing. She writes with passion and subtlety. She is an author in the most radical sense of the word in terms of creating something new out of her engagement with past traditions."

Sokoloff also believes that the world would be a better place if more people read her works.

"I would encourage people to read her," he said. "Unfortunately, the people that really need to read her are the least likely to read her work. It's possible that her ideas really don't have the impact they could if they were simply in the Rio Grande Valley. I think they could have an impact here, but I think a broader engagement of her work in the university curriculum throughout the country and the world would actually be quite positive."

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



Investing in Brownsville

Commission looks to make capital improvement for city

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

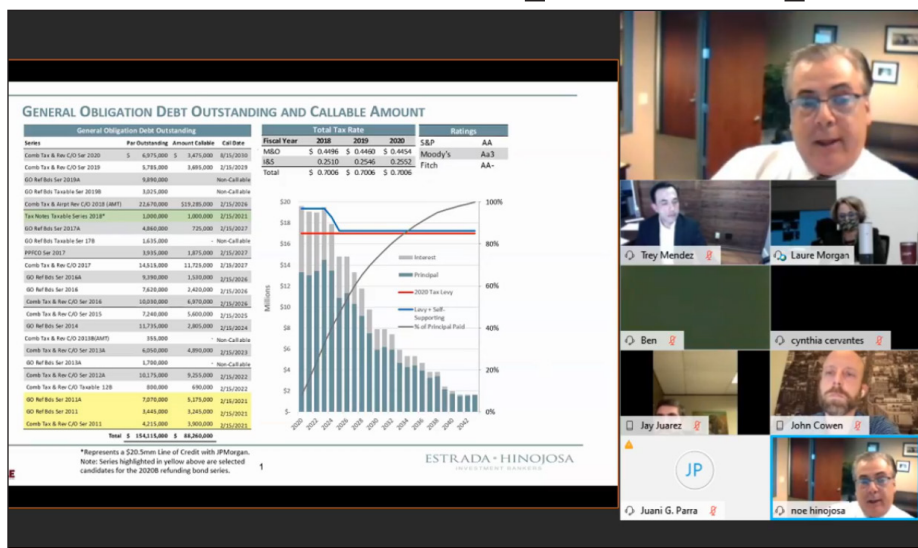
The City of Brownsville is contemplating the issuance of a series of Certificates of Obligation in the amount not to exceed \$10.5 million for various capital improvements.

Noé Hinojosa Jr., chairman, president and CEO of Estrada Hinojosa Investment Bankers, said the improvements include streets, drainage, hike and bike trail, and potential refunding of certain outstanding bonds that the city has.

"As it is being customary, we bring this to you (Brownsville City Commission), in anticipation of a bond sale anticipated to occur sometime November 3rd," Hinojosa said, "hoping that the market continues to stay with us."

The total debt the city has is about \$154 million. He said out of this money only \$88 million can be refinanced.

"The tax rate for Fiscal Year '21 ... is at .255128," Hinojosa said. "If you so choose to fund nothing, to do nothing with CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), to do nothing of improvement, then very likely, this time next year, your tax rate will go from .2551 to .2197. So,



SCREENSHOT TAKEN BY ROXANNA MIRANDA FROM THE SEPT. 15 BROWNSVILLE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING VIA FACEBOOK LIVE. Noé Hinojosa (top right), chairman, president and CEO of Estrada Hinojosa Investment Bankers, presents the \$10.5 million certificate of obligation proposal to finance certain capital improvements, such as streets, drainage, bike and trails, at various locations in Brownsville during last Tuesday's Brownsville City Commission meeting. Also shown are members of the Brownsville City Commission and City employees.

we view that as an opportunity for you to address CIP needs without impacting the tax rate."

He said Estrada Hinojosa Investment

Bankers are looking to sell bonds on Nov. 3 and if rates remain the same, the corporation is very hopeful that the city will end up paying about \$209 million.

FIESTAS

Continúa de Página 5

pueden esperar los estudiantes sobre el evento.

"Algo que queremos nos gusta promover es la diversidad", Santos contestó. "Queremos celebrar la cultura. [Fiestas Patrias es] un evento muy grande que

nos hace sentir muy unidos considerando que, o sea, UTRGV ... estamos en la frontera. La mayoría de nuestro alumnado que hay aquí son estudiantes hispanos. Siempre es agradable sentir una

[conexión] más cercana y aunque sea virtual este año, comoquiera queríamos tener eso".

HIDALGO

Continued from Page 1

All people 18 years and older must comply with the 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. curfew unless they are out for a medical emergency, to provide covered essential services, essential travel, or any other purpose permitted under the order.

Cortez said he will continue using curfew as a tool to keep people, particularly younger people, off the streets during overnight hours.

The order states that all persons age 17 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when participating in essential activities unless that person is out for a medical emergency,

to provide covered essential services, essential travel, or any other purpose.

"This emergency order also takes into account a unique phenomenon for South Texas that many other parts of the state don't necessarily contend with: the annual arrival of Winter Texans," Cortez said in the news release.

He added some protections in regard to event organizers and popular gathering spots for Winter Texans.

The order states that event organizers holding events indoors, excluding church ceremony, are limited to 50% of the total listed occupancy of the facility. People at these events must still wear a face covering.

Hair/nail salons, gyms, bowling al-

leys and bingo halls must continue maintaining standard health protocols: physical distancing of six feet, sanitizing surfaces and equipment between uses, and providing hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water.

Movie theaters operating at 50% capacity must maintain at least two seats or six feet separation between groups in any row.

The order encourages all people 65 and older to stay at home as much as possible since they are a vulnerable population.

Hidalgo County still prohibits any outdoor gatherings of 10 or more people unless the mayor of the city or Cortez approves it.

The county is still enforcing face coverings when inside a commercial building, in a space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space.

A verbal or written warning is issued for first-time violators of the face covering mandate and an individual's second violation is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 in accordance with Gov. Greg Abbott's Executive order GA-29. Each subsequent violation is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation.

To view the full order, please visit: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/41008/County-Order-20-014>.

CAMERON

Continued from Page 3

raising the total number to 22,222. As of Wednesday morning, an additional eight deaths were reported, bringing the death toll to 842.

Asked during the Facebook session when the public can anticipate a vaccine, Castillo replied there will not be a vaccine available until it is proven to be both safe and effective.

"The good news on the vaccine front is a lot of vaccines are in something called phase three trials, which means effectiveness," he said. "They've gone through the safety trials and were found to be safe and now they're in the effectiveness trials, meaning does it protect you?"

Castillo said there is a chance there could be a vaccine by the end of this year. He reminded the public of the symptoms of this virus, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. The most prevalent of the symptoms seems to be loss of taste and smell, according to Castillo.

"This virus is here for the long term, and if we don't do our part, it's going to do everything it can to take advantage," Treviño said. "It doesn't care if you're healthy or not healthy, it's just looking for a host in order to continue to survive. So, all of these changes that we've asked people to implement in their daily lives, the wearing of masks, social distancing, avoiding

crowds, personal hygiene, washing your hands frequently, not touching your face and staying home as much as possible, we know those are the tools in our toolbox that work."

Castillo urges the public to recognize that there are many people here who are considered high risk due to underlying conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma and cancer. He also said that experts still do not know the long-term effects of this virus.

For people who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, Castillo said, "Testing [negative] does not get you out of quarantine." Results can change from day to day and he advises that the only way to know for sure is to self-quarantine if you feel you have been exposed.

By the same token, a positive test does not necessarily mean you are infectious anymore, according to Castillo. The CDC is no longer requiring a negative test for victims to go back to work. Now they must wait 10 days after they first started experiencing symptoms before they can return to work. However, for those who required hospitalization, the contagious period can be up to 20 days since the first symptoms.

The Cameron County Fourth Amended Emergency Management Order, which was issued Sept. 4, is still in place. The order includes facial coverings, limitations on gatherings, shelter-in-place, beach access partial opening and a curfew between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. for persons 17 and younger and from midnight to 5 a.m. for anyone 18 and older.

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