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GONE PHISHING

Supporting women's health

Yamilet Galvez
 THE RIDER

The makers of the Plan B One-Step emergency contraception are donating more than 325,000 of the tablets to community organizations across the U.S., helping women access critical health resources.

Foundation Consumer Healthcare, the makers of the levonorgestrel emergency contraception, announced its Community Impact Program donated more than 325,000 tablets and bilingual fact sheets to over 700 advocacy organizations across the country that support women in underserved communities, according to Business Wire.

"Plan B One-Step is an FDA approved emergency contraceptive pill that you take within 72 hours of unprotected sex or birth control failure," said a spokesperson for Foundation Consumer Healthcare. "You have up to 72 hours to take it, but the sooner you take it the better it works. It is not an abortion pill and would not harm an existing pregnancy."

Emergency contraception is free at any Access Esperanza Clinics, which has several locations throughout Hidalgo County, including McAllen, Mission, Edinburg and Weslaco. No appointment or exam is necessary. Access offers many regular birth control methods: the pill, patch, ring, implant, IUD and condoms.

Luz Saavedra, a campus health educator at Access Esperanza Clinics, described the different types of services that Access provides.

See **PLAN**, Page 8



Natalie Lapsley/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Rebeca Salinas
 COPY EDITOR

UTRGV President Guy Bailey has been requesting Apple gift certificates from faculty and staff, or so an SMS phishing scam claims.

The UTRGV Information Security Office sent an email Sept. 27 informing the campus community about an SMS phishing scam that inquired individuals

to purchase Apple gift certificates and share the back codes to the sender, "Bailey."

Kevin Crouse, chief information security officer of the Information Security Office, said this is the first time his department has received reports of an SMS phishing scam impersonating the university president.

He said the scam has been

occurring via short messaging service (SMS), which is called smishing.

"[Smishing is] a very popular attack vector nowadays because people are less suspicious on their phone," Crouse said. "There's less, what we would call, visual real estate. So, it's a lot easier to obscure stuff. ... People will see their phone and just click to respond to something real fast. So, it's very common."

As of press time Friday, the Information Security Office has received only two reports of the scam.

Business executive scams, such as these, have been around for a long time, according to the chief information security officer.

"They ... tend to have targeted, in the past, newer employees because, you know, they don't

See **SCAM**, Page 8

Correction:

A story, headlined "Do not struggle in silence," published in the Oct. 2 issue of The Rider contained the wrong contact information for the UTRGV Counseling Center. The phone number for the Counseling Center is 665-2574.

Bailey, Zayas hail rise in UTRGV's prestige

Jesse Valencia
 ONLINE EDITOR

UTRGV held its Fall Convocation last week to celebrate the accomplishments of its eight-year history and acknowledge its rise to the No. 1 ranking among all Texas universities by Washington Monthly.

"Would you have believed eight years ago, we'd be where we are right now? ... It was a new adventure," UTRGV President Guy Bailey asked the audience of about 180 faculty and staff gathered last Wednesday in El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

Bailey spoke about the accomplishments that led to rising growth and recognition of UTRGV as a top public university.

"We made a commitment to our students," he said. "We were going to do things differently. ... We're going to graduate students at a higher rate with little or no debt, and here we are today. ... I think we've accomplished a lot of what we wanted to do. People around the country are beginning to see that."

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Christina Vasquez/THE RIDER

UTRGV Jazz Ambassadors perform during Fall Convocation last Wednesday in the Student Union PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Information Systems Associate Professor Xuan Wang (from left), Engineering and Computer Science Dean Ala Qubbaj and Social Work Assistant Professor Lin Jiang put their V's up for a selfie during Fall Convocation last Tuesday at the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

THE RIDER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
From Farmworker to Astronaut
The **Center of Excellence in STEM Education** will host a showing of “**A Million Miles Away**,” a film about **José M. Hernández**, a migrant farmworker who became an astronaut, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Mathematics & General Classrooms Room 2.412 on the Edinburg campus. The showing is in observance of **Hispanic Heritage Month**. Free coffee and *pan dulce* will be available for those who attend.

Sex Education
Access for Sex-Education will host **educational sessions** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today and Wednesday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. **Goodies** will be provided.

Boot Camp
University Recreation will host a **boot camp-style exercise** from 5 to 5:45 p.m. today and Wednesday in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. All fitness levels are welcome. The event will also take place from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in the same location.

Zumba Workout
University Recreation will host a **Zumba fitness program** that combines Latin and international dance moves from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. today and

Wednesday in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday
German Club
RGV German Club members will meet from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.502 on the Brownsville campus.

Holy Mass
The **Catholic Student Association** will **celebrate Mass** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the University Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Spanish Bible Study
The **Baptist Student Ministry** will host **Spanish Bible study** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.205 on the Edinburg campus.

Edinburg Bible Study
Christians at RGV will host **Bible study** from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in Student Academic Center Room 1.103 on the Edinburg campus and from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.114 on the Brownsville campus.

Wednesday
Free Lunch
The **Catholic Student Association** will provide **free lunch** to UTRGV students, faculty and staff from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Newman Student Catholic Center on the Edinburg

campus. This event will take place every Wednesday until the end of the semester.

Hot Dog & Hot Cheetos
The **Society of Automotive Engineers-RGV** **Baja Racing Team** will sell hot dogs and hot Cheetos for its Society of Automotive Engineers competition in 2024. The fundraiser will be from 11 a.m. to noon at University Library Courtyard B on the Edinburg campus.

Anthropology Club Meetings
All majors are welcome to attend the **Anthropology Club** meeting from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 106 on the Edinburg campus.

Students will learn about linguistics, medicine, biology, evolution and archaeology.

Environmental Awareness
The **Environmental Awareness Club** will meet from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.418 on the Edinburg campus to discuss fundraisers, field trips and symposiums.

Thursday
German Classes
The **RGV German Club** will offer **German lessons** from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in Main Building Room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus.

Halloween Dance Party

The **Student Union** will host a **dance party** for all students from 8 to 10 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Food and DJ entertainment will be provided.

V Link & Engagement Zone 101
The **Involvement Ambassadors** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host an event where students can craft **spooky-themed lanterns** from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. The ambassadors and the CSI Community Service Team will also **share tips** to help students navigate **V Link** and the **Engagement Zone**.

Saturday
Solar Eclipse Event
The **Center of Excellence in STEM Education** will celebrate the H-E-B Planetarium’s 60th anniversary by viewing the **solar eclipse** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. near the Science Sundial on the Edinburg campus. There will be activities for children, free food and film showings.

Sunday
Mass Celebration
The **Catholic Student Association** will **celebrate Mass** from 3 to 4 p.m. in the St. Newman University Chapel, located at 1615 W. Kuhn St. in Edinburg.

--Compiled by Alfredo Garcia

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 26 and Oct. 3.

Sept. 26
10:06 a.m.: A university vendor reported that an unknown man may have stolen items from The Grid store in the University Library on the Brownsville campus. This was unconfirmed at the time of the report.

11:04 a.m.: A UTRGV employee reported finding a loaded pistol magazine while mowing the grass near the Thermal Plant on the Brownsville campus. An officer recovered the magazine.

12:18 p.m.: An employee reported that a student had made concerning comments about harming herself the previous day. Officers spoke with the student via telephone while she was out of town with her mother and determined the student was not a danger to herself or others.

12:53 p.m.: University Police responded to a student who reported damage to his vehicle after it was allegedly left unattended in Lot E-16 on the Edinburg campus. Officers later determined that the student had provided a false version of events. Upon reviewing closed-circuit TV cameras, officers found that the student had struck an unattended vehicle earlier in the day, causing the reported damage. The case is under investigation.

4:39 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported that a 2-year-old child accidentally injured herself Sept. 25 in the Child Development Center. University Police responded to the location and reviewed closed-circuit TV cameras, confirming that the manner of injury was accidental.

5:02 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported that an unknown person used their university department’s phone number without authorization to spoof multiple people.

Sept. 27
9:28 a.m.: A student reported that a non-affiliated man had contacted her via social media after she notified him not to contact her in any manner. The case is under investigation.

3:37 p.m.: A student reported that her iPhone was stolen from the Music, Science & Learning Center on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

3:39 p.m.: A student reported that an unknown individual damaged her vehicle’s rear passenger door while it was parked in Lot B-6 on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

5:02 p.m.: A student resident reported to have made concerning comments to another student in Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. Officers spoke with the student and determined that he was in violation of housing policies. This matter was referred to Residence Life and Student Rights and Responsibilities for administrative disciplinary review.

8:45 p.m.: A University Police officer on foot patrol found writing made with permanent marker on the wall of a restroom in the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

9:51 p.m.: A student reported that he noticed several unauthorized transactions made on his debit card Sept. 14. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 28
9:03 a.m.: University Police detected an odor of burning plastic at the UT Education & Research Center D.D. Hachar Building in Laredo. Officers evacuated the building and contacted the Laredo Fire Department. The odor was later identified as melting PVC pipes that a UT Facilities employee was working on inside the building. The Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

11:40 a.m.: A student reported that an unknown individual stole a package that was delivered by FedEx and addressed to her from the Heritage Hall front lobby on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

2:15 p.m.: A student reported unauthorized transactions on her debit card after losing it in the Life and Health Sciences Building on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

2:34 p.m.: University Police responded to the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship building on the

Edinburg campus in reference to a television that appeared to be intentionally damaged by an unknown person. The case is under investigation.

3:40 p.m.: A student resident reported that another male student resident used offensive language and gestures toward him in the Casa Bella apartments on the Brownsville campus. The case is under investigation.

5:10 p.m.: University Police met with a student who reported that a male student pushed her, causing her to fall and injure herself in the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. The student declined emergency medical services. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 29
8:58 a.m.: A staff member reported that a non-affiliated man has been dropping off letters and other items for her at her former residence, where her parents reside. She said she has already filed a police report with the San Benito Police Department. The case is under investigation.

12:11 p.m.: A student reported witnessing a non-affiliated high school teacher push another student about a year ago while he was attending a high school band event on campus. The case is under investigation.

6:14 p.m.: A staff member reported detecting a strong odor of gas coming from El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. University Police responded to the area and detected the odor coming from a stove in the kitchen. The staff shut the gas off. University Police contacted the Brownsville Fire Department, who determined the building was safe to enter.

Oct. 2
2:41 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported observing an argument between a female student and a man in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. University Police spoke with the woman and confirmed that the argument was between her and her boyfriend,

who had already left campus. No criminal offense occurred.

2:45 p.m.: A UTRGV employee requested the assistance of University Police regarding a minor who had fled the Research Education building after an argument with his mother on the Edinburg campus. University Police found and apprehended the minor for further inquiry. Officers also contacted medical professionals and emergency medical services who transported the minor to the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance for further care.

3:50 p.m.: A student reported witnessing a vehicle strike a parked vehicle before leaving the area in Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

5:15 p.m.: A U.S. deputy marshal reported that a student was arrested in the U.S. Courthouse for the Southern District of Texas by the McAllen Police Department for allegedly being in possession of a firearm.

7:29 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported observing an argument involving a female student and a male subject in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. When the employee tried to check on the female student, the man used abusive and vulgar language toward the employee. The case is under investigation. This case is related to the case that occurred at 2:41 p.m.

7:59 p.m.: A UTRGV employee reported that she received several unwanted calls from another employee that caused her to feel harassed and annoyed. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 3
1:33 a.m.: A resident assistant called University Police to report an unknown male in the pool area of the Casa Bella apartments on the Brownsville campus. She asked the individual to leave the area and last saw him in Lot B-7. University Police checked the surrounding areas upon arrival but did not locate the subject.

11:53 a.m.: A student reported finding damage to his vehicle at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. The student also received a threat of further damage via the student’s social media. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas



City Commission

Brownsville: Eyes on safety

Julissa Hernandez
THE RIDER

A Brownsville Police Department official says after-hours establishments have increased the department's call volume, spurring plans for a proposal to close a loophole within business regulations concerning alcohol.

James Paschall, commander of support services for the department, gave a presentation to the Brownsville City Commission during its meeting last Tuesday.

The after-hour establishments are Arre Vivo Bar, located at 2223 Central Blvd.; Chaparral, 1655 Ruben Torres Blvd.; and Palace R at 1805 Ruben Torres Blvd., according to an email Paschall sent to The Rider last Thursday.

The Brownsville Police Department's call volume has increased by 181 calls per service over the last 12 months, Paschall said.

The calls include incidents such as sexual assault, assault, fights, officer initiated patrol, subject with a gun, subject down, shots fired and traffic-related accidents, according to Paschall's presentation.

Patrol supervisors assign officers as impact teams to address the establishments.

"The officers assigned remain in the parking lot to deter intoxicated drivers from getting on the road and just keeping the peace," Paschall said.

An existing loophole lets businesses allow alcohol consumption without being subject to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission



Estefania Ramirez/THE RIDER

Residents of Abelardo Estates speak against a proposed development of a single-family subdivision. They say the roads on their street will not be safe because of the increase in traffic.

regulations.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is a state agency that regulates all phases of the alcoholic beverage industry in Texas, including sales, taxation, importation, manufacturing, transporting and advertising, according to the TABC website.

Paschall said that the most important aspect should be to close the loophole that allows operation from 2:15 to 7 a.m.

A proposal will be brought back to the city commission for approval under the public hearing agenda item.

District 3 City Commissioner Roy De los Santos thanked Paschall for the presentation and suggested a town hall meeting and invite local business owners.

De los Santos said some input that he has heard from other

business owners is that their business is hurt because people will go out later or prefer to go to these establishments.

"I don't want the business community to feel like we're not taking them into consideration as we move forward, so an opportunity would be good," he said.

In other business, the city commission rejected a request from Raluz Properties LLC., a development company, to rezone 32.41 acres of Block 9 in the J.C. Bennett Subdivision and 0.02 acres of Reserve No.1 in the Abelardo Estates Subdivision from agricultural to residential single-family for the construction of a single-family home subdivision.

Raluz Properties LLC. is a development company that

See **BROWNSVILLE**, Page 8

McAllen International is UTRGV's official airport

Sofia Cantu Saucedo
THE RIDER

UTRGV Athletics announced the McAllen International Airport as the university's official airport to provide Vaqueros a better traveling experience.

Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics, said "after a month or two" of conversations, the partnership officially "kicked off" during a Sept. 28 news conference.

Conque said the partnership between the two started with the overall relationship between the City of McAllen and the university.

"We saw a great opportunity to match up our McAllen International Airport with the UTRGV Vaqueros," said Jeremy Santoscoy, interim director of Aviation from McAllen International Airport.

Santoscoy said the partnership is "a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the leader in higher education here in the Rio Grande Valley."

He said the McAllen International Airport started the process of the partnership "probably about a month and a half ago, more or less."

Conque said it is a typical sponsorship agreement and it is still being rooted for the final signature.

"It could be done as we sit here today," he said. "But all of that happens right as the public announcement happens."

The Rider asked Conque how the partnership benefits UTRGV Athletics.

"Being associated and co-branded and affiliated with someone like the McAllen International Airport—it's really a validator for us," he replied. "We do about 70% of our air travel through McAllen International. It's not just our teams. It's the visiting teams."

Santoscoy said, for Athletics, having an airport so close to campus is the main benefit.

"They can connect basically all over the world with high-frequency available flights throughout every day of the week," he said.

"Connectivity" was the economic benefit of this partnership, Santoscoy said.

"We have two of the legacy carriers, which you can connect to all over the world," he said. "That helps the UTRGV students get to where they need to be whether it's for athletics or for their education."

Conque said there will not be much change on the way UTRGV Athletics travel because the department already does most of its air travel out of McAllen International Airport.

"We expect that to remain," he said. "What we will see, though, is an increase in travel with the addition of our two new sports with swimming and diving and with football."

Conque said the student athletes will continue to travel the same way and they will be welcomed back or sent on the road in a branded McAllen International Airport.

"We're just excited about this new partnership," Santoscoy said. "Being able to collaborate with UTRGV Vaqueros and the Athletic Department says a lot about the way we can collaborate with our community."

Santoscoy said McAllen International Airport wants to be the front doorstep for visitors and students from all over the world and a gateway to the community.

The partnership offers UTRGV students giveaway opportunities, Conque said, including a trip for two to a UTRGV football game during the 2025 inaugural season with airfare from McAllen International Airport, hotel accommodations, transportation and tickets to the game.

The second giveaway will be awarded during UTRGV Madness on Oct. 27.

One student will win a trip for two to the Western Athletic Conference basketball tournament in Las Vegas during spring break.

The giveaway includes airfare from the McAllen International Airport, hotel accommodations, transportation and passes to the WAC men's and women's basketball tournaments.

Edinburg City Council

Residents unite against zoning ordinance

Eduardo Escamilla
THE RIDER

The Edinburg City councilmembers listened to residents' concerns during a public hearing last Tuesday for a rezoning request of Lot 16, Block 8, of the Santa Cruz Gardens Unit No. 3 subdivision at 4708 N. Gwin Road.

Residents from Gwin Road gathered en masse to urge the city councilmembers to vote against the ordinance.

"There needs to be a plan for Gwin," said State Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) during the public comment section of the meeting. "... Currently, there is no sewer or drainage on Gwin, [the rezoning] would need 42 septic tanks. I don't even know if that's legal."

Adjacent to 4708 N. Gwin Road are single-family residential, agriculture and vacant land. The city mailed a notice of the public hearing to 17 neighboring property owners on Sept. 1, according to Jaime Acevedo, director of Planning and Zoning.

Canales asked fellow Gwin Road residents to stand during the public comment to demonstrate the mass dissatisfaction within the community.

"We have about 27 [residents] of the 32 homes they represent," he said. "... We are not against



Ryan Lugo/THE RIDER

Place 1 Councilmember Daniel "Dan" Diaz (from left), Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr., Place 3 Councilmember Johnny Garcia and Place 2 Councilmember Jason De Leon vote to overturn the rezoning request last Tuesday after hearing the concerns of North Gwin Road residents during the Edinburg city council meeting.

growth, [but] with great roads, comes great responsibility."

Gwin Road residents said they opposed the rezoning because they are against the proposed size of the new lots, and because their property's infrastructure has not received a proper drainage system.

"These lots, to me, are extremely small," resident Jorge Martinez said. "I don't know what the requirements are going to be, but we need to know all that, because it's going to really depreciate our property values."

The applicant, RG Enterprise LLC, requested a rezoning

for a single-family residential subdivision with lot sizes and setbacks that are smaller than current zoning allows, according to Acevedo.

The current zoning would allow 21 lots. If the zoning request was approved, it would permit 40.

"I'm under no illusion, and nobody in that crowd is under the illusion, that the area will not continue to grow, that we will get neighbors and nobody is against that," said Canales. "What we are opposed to is 42 septic tanks that will be against the safety and health of that

See **EDINBURG**, Page 8



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

McAllen City Manager Roel Roy Rodriguez and UTRGV President Guy Bailey hold a custom jersey during the announcement of a partnership between the McAllen International Airport and UTRGV Sept. 28 at the McAllen International Airport lobby. Also shown is Chasse Conque, the vice president and director of Athletics for UTRGV.



Finding myself



Ryan Lugo
PHOTOGRAPHER

These last couple of years have truly been the most mentally and physically challenging of my life. I took pride in my high school academics, staying in the top 10% of my class, taking dual-enrollment classes at Texas State Technical College and participating in cross-country and track as a long-distance runner.

Finishing high school with an A grade-point average and being involved in sports and other clubs supported my mentality of keeping my grades up in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Starting college, my mentality was it would be a breeze. But boy, was I wrong, especially being a full-time student taking five classes each semester; majoring in biomedical science to become a surgeon; and working full time to support myself financially throughout the academic year.

I began attending TSTC in Fall 2017 because it was more affordable and to get my basics out of the way first. And, I had been attending classes there since high school. So, I figured I had this in the bag. Yet, again, I was wrong in taking it easy as if it was

still "high school."

I finished that year with a B- average which was horrible compared to high school. This grade cast seeds of doubt in my mind. "Will I even make it to graduation? Can I really do this?"

I didn't participate in clubs or activities that encouraged me to stay healthy, both mentally and physically, as I once did in high school. I still had time to spend with friends and family, but school was harder than I thought and I never reached out when I should have.

I then transferred to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Fall 2018, continuing my then-major in biomedical science. I started to become more appreciated at work and slowly moved up to manager and the job didn't feel like

In Fall 2019, I took only three classes to see if that would make a difference. It wasn't pretty; I finished that semester with two F's and a C, which is a 1.0 GPA. After this, I was so disappointed in myself for not being able to handle school and my new position as a manager at work.

I dropped out the following semester, not even showing up to classes and just giving up entirely. I didn't even give a reason for dropping out. I just gave up on myself. At least I still had my job, right? Until February 2020, when I was let go.

By this point, the COVID-19 pandemic had struck and isolation was essential. I believe this is where I fell into a state of major depression and generalized anxiety disorder. At the end of 2020, I began to experience seizures with no known causes. With medication, my disability is manageable.

In February 2021, I started to have ideas of self-harm but never acted on them, thankfully. But at this point, I truly sought out help, reaching out to my parents with feelings of failure and shame at first.

I returned to UTRGV in Spring 2023 to study visual communication design and ended the semester with a 3.5 GPA, as well as a spot on the Dean's List, which was astonishing to me after returning to school following a two-year break and the summer that followed.

I am living with a disability that is constantly trying to hold me back, but I continue to strive forward with the support of my friends, family and peers.

Be kind to yourself no matter the situation. Be understanding and patient with yourself.

Be kind to yourself no matter the situation. Be understanding and patient with yourself.

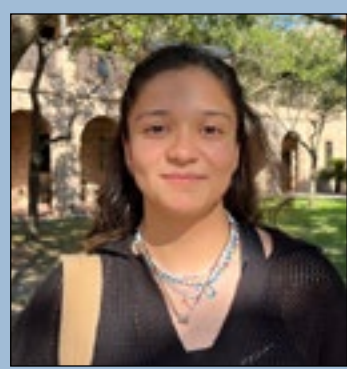
a drag as much as school did.

Still working full time that first semester, I finished with a 1.14 GPA, causing me to fall under academic probation for the following semester. When learning of my academic probation, I began to focus more on my schoolwork, which conflicted with my new position at work because I was trying to spend more time on school and for myself, which didn't help. But by the end of Spring 2019, I would only have one drop left for the rest of my academic career.

Texas has a "6 Drop" rule, meaning that students are not allowed to drop more than six classes throughout their academic career.



What's your favorite movie and why?



"It's been 'Beauty and the Beast.' I've been obsessed with it since I was little, with the cartoon version. But more or so, it's probably the live-action one. Emma Watson really did a pretty good role ... for Belle."

Lesly Peña
kinesiology senior



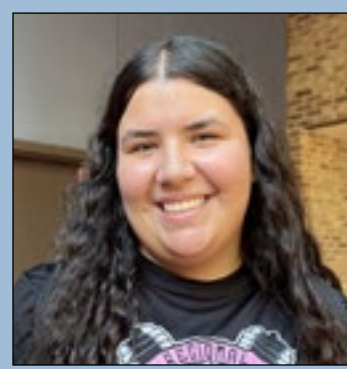
"My favorite movie is 'La La Land' because it shows that not everybody gets to be with who they want and it's life, and I relate to it."

Jamin Muñiz
kinesiology junior



"Mi película favorita es 'In Time', y porque básicamente se trata de que el tiempo es tu vida, y eso es lo que prácticamente es en la realidad".

Juan Manuel Solano Solis
estudiante de primer año de ingeniería mecánica



"My favorite movie is probably going to be 'Titanic' because of all the romance. I really love romance."

Briana Arce
education sophomore

--Compiled and photos by Sofia Cantú Saucedo and Daniela Martínez Salazar

WACKY WEB POLL
WOULD YOU RATHER GO TO A PUMPKIN PATCH OR A CORN MAZE?

63%	37%
PUMPKIN PATCH	CORN MAZE

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Concurso de tarjetas navideñas a la vuelta de la esquina

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Concurso de Tarjetas Navideñas de UTRGV está abierto para que los estudiantes muestren sus obras de arte y sean elegibles para ganar hasta \$1,000 en becas.

Para participar en el concurso, los participantes deben ser estudiantes de UTRGV con buenos antecedentes. Los estudiantes de doble crédito y simultáneos no son elegibles.

Seis becas se otorgarán en el concurso.

El presidente de UTRGV Guy Bailey y Luis H. Zayas, rector y vicepresidente de Asuntos Académicos, otorgarán una beca de \$1,000 al ganador del primer lugar y una beca de \$500 a los dos subcampeones.

Patrick Gonzales, vicepresidente de Mercadotecnia y Comunicaciones de UTRGV, dijo que el concurso se ha convertido en una tradición en la universidad.

Gonzales dijo que al Presidente Bailey le gusta enviar tarjetas navideñas al "campus; a otros presidentes; a partes interesadas externas, como nuestros donantes; nuestros exalumnos [y] funcionarios electos".

En lugar de comprar una tarjeta navideña, a Bailey se le ocurrió la idea de hacer un concurso entre estudiantes de UTRGV.

"Una de las razones por las que lo hizo es porque realmente cree que algunos de los diseñadores más talentosos provienen de nuestro alumnado", dijo Gonzales. "Entonces, ¿por qué ir a comprar una tarjeta? O, por qué pagarle a alguien para que lo cree cuando tenemos tantos estudiantes talentosos que pueden hacer un trabajo aún mejor."

El límite es una entrada por persona. No se revisarán otras presentaciones del mismo competidor.

Los diseños no pueden incluir palabras o mensajes en la obra de arte, según el sitio web de UTRGV. Las reglas establecen que es sólo la obra de arte; no se deben incluir palabras ni mensajes en los envíos finales.

Gonzales dijo que UTRGV comenzó a vender las tarjetas ganadoras por una buena causa.

"La otra cosa que agregamos hace unos años es que ahora vendemos las tarjetas ganadoras a nuestra comunidad universitaria, o en realidad, a cualquiera que quiera comprarlas a través de nuestra librería", dijo. "Y todas las ganancias de esas ventas se destinan a la despensa de alimentos. [...] Eso es algo que hemos hecho los últimos dos años y ha sido un éxito. Hemos agotado todas las tarjetas que se pusieron a la venta".

Karen Dorado, directora de Programas Especiales y Relaciones Comunitarias, le dijo a The Rider por correo electrónico el



Angel Ballesteros/FOTO RIDER

Sandrine Agbeko, estudiante de tercer año de diseño gráfico, obtuvo el primer lugar en la categoría Presidente y recibió una beca de \$1,000 en el Concurso de Tarjetas Navideñas del 2022. El diseño muestra una caja de postres navideños, como galletas con forma de botas de vaquero, pan dulce y galletas con el logotipo de UTRGV.

martes pasado que "se recaudó y donó un total de \$3,300 a la Despensa de Alimentos de UTRGV a través de la venta de tarjetas navideñas del 2022".

Sandrine Agbeko, estudiante de tercer año de diseño gráfico, recibió el primer lugar en la categoría del Presidente y una beca de \$1,000 del Concurso de Tarjetas Navideñas 2022.

El diseño de la tarjeta de Agbeko es un paquete de postres navideños, que incluyen galletas con forma de botas de vaquero, pan dulce y galletas con el logotipo de UTRGV.

"Entonces, la inspiración detrás de esto provino principalmente de una caja de galletas que se regala durante las fechas festivas", dijo. "Como vivimos en una comunidad predominantemente hispana, quería implementar algunos pasteles mexicanos, como pan dulce [...] para que pueda ser inclusivo de la comunidad que vivimos en el RGV, así como incorporar el orgullo escolar, porque también tenía una galleta que tiene el logo de UTRGV".

Agbeko dijo que pasó dos semanas diseñando la tarjeta.

"Fue bastante tedioso", dijo. "La imagen de mi tarjeta navideña era más realista. Y normalmente mi estilo es muy plano y, por eso,

Angel Ballesteros/GRÁFICA THE RIDER

"Como vivimos en una comunidad predominantemente hispana, quería implementar algunos pasteles mexicanos, como pan dulce [...] para que pueda ser inclusivo de la comunidad que vivimos en el RGV, así como incorporar el orgullo escolar, porque también tenía una galleta que tiene el logo de UTRGV", dijo Sandrine Agbeko, estudiante de diseño gráfico que ganó el primer lugar en el concurso de tarjetas navideñas del año pasado.

tuve que incorporar muchas sombras y muchos detalles".

Agbeko dijo que planea competir en el concurso de este año y anima a sus compañeros a hacerlo también.

"Aprecia el RGV", dijo. "Aquí hay mucha cultura. Y siento que es muy importante resaltar las cosas que hay en el Valle, incluida la comunidad y todo lo que hace que la escuela sea muy inclusiva y muy orgullosa de ser parte de esta comunidad".

Maritza Flores, estudiante de tercer año en ciberseguridad, fue una de las subcampeonas del concurso de 2022 y recibió una beca de \$500.

"Me inspiré en mi abuela, que falleció hace como un año", dijo Flores. "Quería agregar tantas cosas [...] para mostrar el reencuentro. Mostrar cómo podemos reunirnos todos y



celebrar esta festividad en familia incluso si los miembros de la familia no están con nosotros. Pero espiritualmente, están ahí".

Dijo que también planea presentar un diseño este año y anima a los estudiantes a hacer lo mismo.

"Incluso si no eres un artista ni nada por el estilo, al menos deberías unirte", dijo. "Diviértete con eso. Muestra tu creatividad [y] tu imaginación. Inspirar a otros con lo que puedes hacer incluso si no es perfecto".

Las especificaciones de la tarjeta son que el tamaño final debe ser de 7 x 5 pulgadas con un margen de 0.25 pulgadas y una zona de seguridad de 6.75 x 4.75 pulgadas, según el sitio web de UTRGV. La orientación de la tarjeta puede ser horizontal o vertical.

Todas las ilustraciones deben ser CMYK a 300 dpi. Los formatos aceptados son PDF, EPS, AI, TIFF y JPEG. La obra de arte debe enviarse electrónicamente, junto con el formulario de inscripción oficial.

Si la obra de arte no cumple con estos requisitos, la presentación no será considerada.

La fecha límite para enviar un diseño es el 31 de octubre. Los ganadores se anunciarán a mediados de noviembre por correo electrónico.

Para obtener más información sobre el concurso, llame a la Oficina de Comunicaciones y Mercadotecnia de la Universidad al 665-2741 o envíe un correo electrónico a events@utrgv.edu. Para enviar una participación, visite utrgv.edu/feature/eblasts/president-holiday-card/contest.



Ryan Lugo /THE RIDER

Nombre: Dosun Lee

Carrera: Estudio de arte con especialización en cerámica

Clasificación: Estudiante de tercer año

Fecha de graduación: Primavera 2025

Ciudad natal: Seúl, Corea del Sur

Actividades extracurriculares: "Estoy en el Club de Cerámica [de UTRGV]".

¿Cuáles son las diferencias entre tu ciudad natal y los Estados Unidos? "Oh, supongo que diferentes perspectivas. Diferentes culturas, como, supongo que diferentes éticas y valores".

Si solo pudieras comer un alimento

por el resto de tu vida, ¿cuál sería y por qué? "Supongo que pasta, de cualquier tipo. Es como mi comida feliz. Me hace feliz [...] ver los diferentes colores y las diferentes formas".

¿Qué hay en tu lista de deseos? "Ir a un concierto que realmente me guste, pero hace tiempo que no voy a un concierto. Me gustaría ir a ver a BTS".

¿Quién es tu ejemplo a seguir? "Realmente no tengo un modelo a seguir. Alguien a quien admiro es a Lady Gaga porque la he visto crecer en diferentes áreas. La persona en la que se ha convertido [...] supongo que la forma en que ve el mundo".

¿Por qué elegiste estudio de

arte como tu carrera? "Me gustan mucho las experiencias prácticas. Al principio, yo estudiaba enfermería, pero no funcionó. Así que, quería ir más hacia ser más expresiva y supongo que desde el punto de vista artístico y probar cosas que nunca había probado antes".

¿Qué consejo le darías a otros estudiantes internacionales? "Disfrutar del momento, porque siento que eso es algo que realmente no hacen. [...] La mayoría de las personas que son internacionales aquí son de México. [...] En cierto modo entiendo. [...] Quieren ser los mejores para enorgullecer a su familia. Pero a veces, los veo muy estresados. Ojalá pudieran relajarse un poco".

--Recopilado por Fatima Gamez Lopez

Country music: a melting pot

Silvana Villarreal

A&E REPORTER

A visiting professor at UTRGV says the country music genre includes contributions from many races, not just white.

Nadine Hubbs, a professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan, presented a research workshop and lecture last week for "Sounding Mexican American Life, Music and Art," which was hosted by UTRGV's Center for Mexican American Studies and Center for Latin American Arts.

The event also featured a performance by the Texas SweetHearts last Wednesday outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Hubbs said the main focus of her research is the engagement and the contributions of the people of Mexican descent to U.S. country music.

She said country music is not only white, but also Mexican-American music.

"There is a history of the [music] industry excluding non-white people," Hubbs told the audience gathered last Wednesday in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. "... In the 1920s, when the recording industry started, the recording executives said, 'When it comes to working-class music, this is going to be hillbilly music, and that is going to be race records,' which we now know as R&B. We now know hillbilly music as country music, and they segregated the sounds."

She said when people make the "liberal



Silvana Villarreal/THE RIDER

Elisa de Hoyos, a member of the Texas Sweethearts, performs last Wednesday outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

arguments" proclaiming that country music is white, they exclude the Black, brown, Asian, indigenous and LGBTQ+ musicians who are reclaiming country music at the moment.

Katherine McAllen, an assistant professor of art history and director of the Center for Latin American Arts at UTRGV, said the event was focused on the one-week residency of Hubbs at UTRGV and celebrating National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month.

McAllen said the experience has been full of lectures and roundtables examining country music as a genre and how it could be expanded and should be expanded to include Mexican-American traditions, instruments and rethinking ideas about women and gender studies.

"We're looking at how we can celebrate and include more Latin American traditions and Mexican-American identity into genres that traditionally

were not thought of as inclusive of that," she said.

The Center for Latin American Arts received three grants to host Hubbs: The Raul Tijerina Foundation, which supports the Rio Grande Valley; the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, which supports LGBTQ+ women in Texas; and the Rae Charitable Trust.

"[Hubbs has] been mentoring the students and talking to them about research and the importance of that and how research can take on many forms," McAllen said.

The event's theme tries to convey awareness and appreciation of Latin and Mexican-American art, thinking of the common heritage between the two and supporting students to connect with their own history, according to McAllen.

The Texas SweetHearts, of Weslaco, have been playing together for 10 years and performed last Wednesday as part of the event. The Tejano group consists of accordionist Elisa de Hoyos; her mother, lead singer and guitarist Mari de Hoyos; her sister, bassist Diana de Hoyos; and drummer Minnie Loreda.

They played "Cowboy Cumbia," by Javier Molina; "That's Alright Mama," by Arthur Crudup; and "Yo no fui," by Pedro Fernández.

The Rider asked Mari de Hoyos how the group came together.

"That was the furthest thing in my mind, but it just so happened to work that way," de Hoyos replied. "So, for me, it has been an honor playing right alongside my girls. It is just the icing on the cake."

Learn more about Hubbs' research through her book "Rednecks, Queers, and Country Music" (University of California Press, 2014).



Silvana Villarreal/THE RIDER

Mari de Hoyos, a member of the Texas Sweethearts, performs last Wednesday outside the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orchestra Concert

The UTRGV School of Music will host the first **University Bands concert** of the academic year from 7 to 9 p.m. today in the **Performing Arts Complex** on the Edinburg campus. **Saul Torres**, assistant professor and director of bands, will direct the **Wind Orchestra** and **Allison Davis**, assistant professor of music education, will direct the **Symphonic Winds**.

Music Recital

The **Faculty Artist Series** at the UTRGV's School of Music will host a **faculty chamber music recital** from 7 to 9 p.m. today in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. The recital will feature soprano **Rebecca Coberly**, baritone **Daniel Hunter-Holly**, flutist **Nicaulis Alliey Rodriguez**, saxophonist **Cynthia Cripps**, cellist **Tido Janssen** and pianist **Stacy Kwak**. Admission is free.

Pumpkin Festival

IDEA Frontier will host a **fall festival** from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday on its campus, located at 2800 S. Dakota Ave., in Brownsville. Food stands, music and games will be available. Tickets for food and games are \$1 each.

Music Festival

The **Brownsville Society of Performing Arts** will host a **Latin Jazz Festival**, featuring "Latin Jazz in Concert" and "Latin Jazz in the Park" with Chilean musician **Camila Meza** and Columbian funk band **Superfónicos**. Meza will perform from 5 to 11 p.m. on Friday in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center and Superfónicos at the same time on Saturday at Linear Park, located at 1534 E. 6th Street. Admission is \$25.

Solar Eclipse-Brownsville

The **South Texas Astronomical Society** and the **Brownsville Public Library-Southmost Branch** will host a viewing of the **annual solar eclipse** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday located at 4320 Southmost Rd. The **South Texas Astronomical Society** and **NASA Solar Systems Ambassadors** will give presentations. Snacks and viewing glasses will be provided and activities for the family will be available. Admission is free.

Solar Eclipse-McAllen

The **International Museum of Art and Science** will host **Dia de Sol- Solar Eclipse Celebration** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in IMAS, located at 1900 W. Nolana Ave., in McAllen. The event will feature a "Science on Space" presentation, hands-on activities, food trucks, vendors and more. The solar eclipse will be at its peak at noon. General admission is \$5.

Halloween Festival

McAllen Parks and Recreation will host a **Halloween Festival**, featuring the **Fright Nite 5k**, the **Tricks and Treats 2k**, games, prizes, concessions, food trucks, costume contests and more. The event will take place from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday in the Westside Multi-Purpose Fields, located at 1000 S. Ware Rd., in McAllen.

Pop-up Markets

Brownsville Pop-Ups will host a **two-weekend market** from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday and Oct. 22 in **Tacos El Knockout**, located at 1742 E. Tyler St., in Brownsville. The event will offer free trick-or-treating, a costume contest, vendors, music and photo opportunities. Admission is free.

—Compiled by Silvana Villarreal

SUDOKU



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Oct. 2 puzzle answer key:

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





Ivo Isqueiro



Jose Medina/THE RIDER

Ivo Isqueiro, a mechanical engineering freshman, is a member of the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team. Isqueiro graduated from SEK International School El-Castillo in Spain.

Q: What do you like about the Rio Grande Valley?

A: "The people are really nice. Very welcoming. [I moved to the Valley in] January 2023. The culture, I already had experience with, coming from an international school. It was kind of easy to adapt to different cultures. Everybody was super welcoming, really nice. There was no issue with anybody, so it was nice."

Q: What kind of music do you like and who is your favorite artist?

A: "I wanna say some reggaeton, 'El Merengue.' [My favorite artist] just depends on who has a better song at the moment. I'd say Justin Timberlake, 'My Love,' is good. 'El Merengue' is pretty good, 'La Bachata.' 'Medusa' by Anuel [AA]."

Q: What movies or shows do you like?

A: "Anything old school. I like 'Heat,' 'The Godfather' and 'Top Gun.' Anything in the '90s, really. 'Roadhouse' also, unbelievable movie. I like stuff like that. ... I like 'Suits.' Also, 'Peaky Blinders' ... and 'Shameless,' too."

Q: Who is one of your role models?

A: "My father is my role model. He did everything for me. He had a lot of hard times. He stayed loyal to the family and everything. He's a great guy. Did everything for us."

Q: What motivates you?

A: "Family. My parents keep pushing for my future. My kids, if I have any in the future. I don't have any right now. Thinking about the future, the life I want to live, that motivates me to keep going, pushing forward."

Q: Would you want to keep playing tennis or do something with your major?

A: "Both, I would say, because I want to do stuff for later for tennis and also stuff for later into my major and combine both of them in a way. ... I really want to have a tennis academy of my own. But I would also, like, if I stick to engineering, go through with it, maybe get some, like, housing stuff, get into houses and everything."

Q: Do you have a fun fact about yourself?

A: "I've had probably over 500 dogs. My parents used to sell dogs, so we used to have like 60 dogs at a time. We had that place for 12 years. So, we accumulated over 500 dogs, total. All breeds. We went for the pure blood just cause it's easier to sell and everything. Like, German Shepards, Spitz, Chihuahuas."

Q: What are some of your personal goals?

A: "Tennis, obviously, I want to make a big impact on the team, not only on the court but off the court. Leave, like, the tennis program in good hands. ... Get the [Western Athletic Conference] Championship. That's the goal, [and] get along with all my teammates."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

Marching band: 'We're alive'

Abigail Ollave
SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Marching Band is set to debut its show "Being Alive" at 10 p.m. Saturday, after the high school band performances at the Pigskin Jubilee in the Bobby Morrow Stadium in San Benito.

Athletic Bands Director Ronnie Rios instructs about 140 inaugural band members.

Rios said the show's name, "Being Alive," is taken from the Stephen Sondheim musical, "Company."

"But I think that it gives meaning to us because we're here where there's a marching band now [and] we're alive," he said.

Other compositions included are "Apocalyptic Dreams," "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Promise."

Rios said the four-movement show includes elements of humanity, drama, development and going from the most beautiful dream to something frightening.

Typically, bands will have a few months to prepare; however, the spirited Vaqueros compiled their 10-minute show in a month and a half.

"Man, it's incredible," said pre-med freshman Paul Farris, who is one of the band's drum majors. "A month and a half ago, we were taking ... just one step. Now, we have almost four movements of full show, [a] 10-minute show outside in a month. That's very hard to do. But, the fact that we were able to do it and watching the band grow from, like I said, one step to [a] 10-minute ... show in a matter of a month. There's nothing else like it. It's awe inspiring what these kids can do."

Last year marked the debut of indoor color guard at UTRGV.

Asked what it was like seeing the transition from indoor to outdoor, Color Guard Director Karen Ramos replied that it was a huge difference.

"I feel like indoor is a little bit more competitive, but outdoor it's a little more mentally draining where you're in the sun now, you're in the heat,"

Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER
Music education freshman Liam Lozano plays his saxophone during the UTRGV Marching Band rehearsal last Wednesday afternoon at the Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER

Math and music senior Ramsey Ramirez (left) and music education senior Jesus Mariscal play the xylophones during the UTRGV Marching Band rehearsal last Wednesday afternoon at the Soccer and Track & Field Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Ramos said. "You have a million people behind you playing an instrument full blast. ... Indoor is a little more calm ... slower paced, but definitely harder work."

Rios said this year taught the band to be efficient with its time.

Ramos also said it is important to rehearse in both Edinburg and Brownsville.

"At the end of the day, we are one school, we are one big community," she said. "And it's important to make sure that we're keeping everyone involved."

Farris said Edinburg and Brownsville are both represented by UTRGV.

"They both have the logo," he said. "And when we represent the logo, we gotta go anywhere there is the logo."

Integrated health science freshman Carlyne Pereira did not expect to be in the marching band but was amazed by the program.

"Before, there was no marching band here at UTRGV, so it was, like, something new," said Pereira, who is the clarinet section leader. "But the fact that it was as soon as I graduated [that] I heard about it, I was like, you know, this is my chance. Like, I love marching band."

Spanish freshman Sofia de la Cerda encourages interested students

to join the color guard.

"You're not going to regret it," said de la Cerda, one of the color guard captains. "Even though, like, it might be a little bit different [or] it might not be the exact same as ... high school, it's something that you're going to take [with you] forever."

Farris said he is looking forward to "being able to play in front of a crowd and ... hear people cheering."

It will not be the last opportunity for the public eyes, as the UTRGV marching band will participate in holiday parades in Brownsville and Laredo.

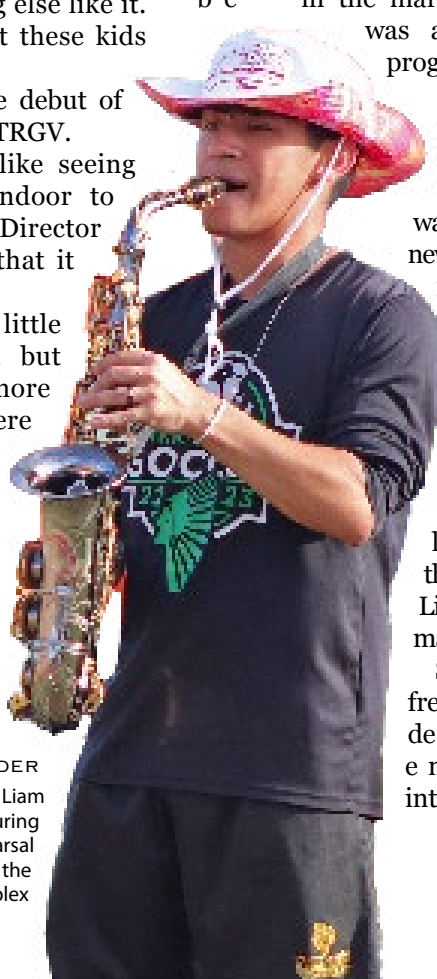
Once the season concludes, Rios will be directing a concert band in the spring term.

The marching band will return next semester for spring training and summer camp. The dates are yet to be determined.

Ramos said winter guard will be next on the agenda once the marching season concludes.

"We're so excited for this season because we are planning to defend the [Texas Color Guard Circuit Independent A championship] title," she said. "We're planning to have a more competitive show this year."

The UTRGV Winter guard will host auditions from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the MAC Court in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. Registration will open 30 minutes prior.



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THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

MEN'S SOCCER

6:30 p.m. Thursday vs. Seattle University

AT THE UTRGV SOCCER AND TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX

VOLLEYBALL

6:30 p.m. Thursday vs. Grand Canyon University

2 p.m. Saturday vs. California Baptist University

AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE

SCAM

Continued from Page 1

necessarily know if [messaging] would be Dr. Bailey's ... mode of operations," Crouse said.

Within growing institutions, such as UTRGV, these scams are only going to become more common as the institution gains a higher profile, he said.

Asked what steps have been implemented to avoid these scams in the future, Crouse replied that having people report smishing scams is the "biggest line of defense."

"When it's a phishing message that comes through email, we move to ... block it, to purge it, that sort of thing so that it can't continue to come through," he said. "... But when it comes to SMS phishing, there's not a lot we can do because it comes through people's cell phones. So, the biggest course of action for us is always to ... then notify people and say, 'Hey, this is happening.'"

The chief of the Information Security Office added there are steps individuals must take if they accidentally interact with a phishing scam.

"If they accidentally interact and click on the link, the very first thing they should do is change their passwords," Crouse said. "Always change your passwords if you think you clicked on a link you shouldn't have. ... Pay attention to what you click on."

He also said his department already conducts simulated phishing tests with faculty and staff but would like to try them with students starting, hopefully, in the spring.

"We've been doing it for faculty and staff for about a year now, and we've seen a huge decrease in the number of people who fall for phishing scams, which is why now we would like to try it with students," Crouse said. "What happens

is ... they click on that link, it says, 'Hey, this was a scam and here's why it was a scam, and here is how you can avoid it.' So, it provides some of that education piece right there at the moment of [it] happening."

In an interview with The Rider last Tuesday, computer science sophomore Javier Arias said cybersecurity is important to him.

"I am in the computer science field, so I can understand why it is important and because right now, these days, we have a lot of information there," Arias said. "We have our address, our full name, credit cards, everything. So, if something gets stolen, you are going to lose everything, your money in your bank account, everything."

The computer science sophomore said he has received emails claiming he won a grant but ignores them because they look suspicious, especially if he did not apply for anything.

Tomas Aguado, assistant director of UTRGV Business Information Systems, said it is important to stay informed about potential scams.

"Spread voice, you know, to family members, brothers, sisters, parents," Aguado said. "... It is important for [them] to know. It is the only way to stop this problem, this phishing problem, by everybody being educated and aware."

For more information on phishing scams and how to avoid them, email is@utrgv.edu or visit utrgv.edu/is.



UPDATES

Continued from Page 1

UTRGV is ranked 60th among all public universities in the nation and No. 1 among all Texas universities by the Washington Monthly. Bailey acknowledged this as a huge accomplishment considering the vast number of universities in the nation and how the university has risen from its first ranking in 2020 at 86th.

Other rankings recognized were No. 1 ranked among all public Texas universities by Degree Choices, No. 1 among all large Texas universities by Third Way, No. 6 among all public Texas universities, No. 1 top performer in social mobility among all public Texas universities by U.S. News and World Report and No. 1 in fastest-growing doctoral public university in Texas by Chronicle of Higher Education.

Bailey said that since 2016, UTRGV has added 16 new bachelor's, 15 master's and five doctoral degrees, plus four professional programs; and more are expected to be implemented.

He said the implementation of several programs has created opportunities for students to gain education in program areas previously not available in the Rio Grande Valley.

In an interview with The Rider, Bailey spoke on the future of UTRGV. "We are doing very well, but we want to do better," he said. "We won't be where we want to be until the vast majority of our students graduate and without debt. ... We've made great progress in doing that, and that's why we provide so much economic value."

Bailey said he wants UTRGV students to do things they might not be able to do if they were to graduate with college debt, such as buying a house.

"That's the way we will transform the Rio Grande Valley," he said. "Providing these opportunities for students is something we want to continue to expand."

Luis Zayas, who joined the university in June as provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs, led the convocation, saying he wanted to dedicate his first convocation by recognizing the students, and the schools and colleges that lead the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators. He presented a video of several UTRGV school

and program administrators and students speaking about accomplishments achieved during UTRGV's history.

Zayas said that aside from UTRGV's educational programs, students in athletics and extracurricular programs make an important contribution to the university and bring a sense of belonging, spirit and identity.

"It's how the public gets acquainted with the university, our schools and faculty and, ultimately, students," he said.

Football Head Coach Travis Bush, representing the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, spoke about his time at UTRGV and the future of the football program, and what it brings not only to UTRGV but also the Rio Grande Valley.

"We're all here for the purpose of enriching the lives of students and making a difference," Bush said. "Truly this [football program] will enrich the culture of UTRGV and provide our students with new opportunities for growth and development given the total campus life that they see across the country."

The football program is scheduled to start its inaugural season in Fall 2025.

Douglas Stoves, associate dean for Student Rights and Responsibilities, presented the UTRGV Chess Team as a nationally renowned competing team and cornerstone of the community in area curriculum, after-school and recreational programs.

Stoves also recognized the UTRGV Chess Team's three national championships and 15 title players, four of which are grandmasters and 11 international or FIDE masters.

Provost Zayas concluded the convocation by thanking the faculty and staff for the work they do at the university.

"We are here for our students," he said. "Everything we do needs to be focused on the students, and how we can continue to rank in [the] social mobility of first-generation families becoming multi-generational college-educated families. And together they will inspire the Valley and provide economic development and leadership."

Fall Convocation on the Edinburg campus took place last Tuesday in the Performing Arts Complex.

PLAN

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"At our clinic we offer all the methods of birth control," Saavedra said. "Whatever method they are interested in, they could come to us. ... For the Plan B, we just require some basic information from people. Most of it is your name, address, date of birth, your income and an emergency contact. It could be a friend; it doesn't necessarily need to be a parent."

A pamphlet from Access for Sex-Education states that possible side effects "go away quickly." The side effects include "dizziness, breast tenderness, belly pain or period cramps, headaches, nausea and bleeding between periods."

"EC can affect your next period. It could be early or late, lighter or heavier, shorter or longer, or the same as usual," according to the pamphlet. "Emergency contraception can't work if you're already pregnant, end a pregnancy, hurt your chances of getting pregnant in the future, and protect against sexually transmitted infections."

Bae-B-Safe is a campus program of Healthy Future of Texas and Talk About It Texas that is committed to connecting young people in the Rio Grande Valley with resources needed to be empowered about their sexual health," according to the organization's Instagram page.

Vianca Vieyra, program coordinator of Let's Talk About It from Student Health Services, said the program has educational initiatives and resources to raise awareness about birth control and emergency contraceptives.

"We have our three workshops that we offer," Vieyra said. "Plan A is a workshop that is available for students of all genders. It follows four stories of college-aged students and they're able to discuss the main components of birth control, healthy and unhealthy relationships, and anatomy. And, links to clinics as well."

The organization conducts a workshop titled 17 Days "for anyone who identifies as female, and that one addresses your first visit to the gynecology," she said.

S.H.A.R.P., another workshop, goes over the same topics as well, Vieyra said.



Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER

Political science freshman Dariana Guerra attends an Access for Sex-Education weekly tabling last Wednesday in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

"We have those three different levels," she said. "All of them also address some more detailed information on emergency contraceptives, what it is, and how it works for a person. So we provide that education."

Natalie Palacios, president of the Intersectional Feminist Student Organization, said the group collaborates with other organizers and health-care providers to ensure that individuals obtain accurate information and easy access to reproductive health options on campus.

"Our primary collaboration is with Frontera Fund because they are the ones that donate all the emergency contraceptives we had," Palacios said. "In the past, we have also been with Planned Parenthood Texas Votes. They've been a big help also, and we're going to have a meeting with them soon to talk about what they can provide us with. And spread more [information] on campus, and provide more emergency contraceptives, condoms and dental dams."

"I definitely encourage people to be involved and not feel shy," Saavedra said. "... Don't feel ashamed of needing the resources that are available. That's what we're here for."

BROWNSVILLE

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requests to rezone subject property at the end of Abelardo from Agricultural to Residential Single Family to construct a single-family home subdivision.

Residential Single Family allows property sizes from 6,000 to 9,000 square feet, which Raluz Properties LLC. would require.

The new subdivision would add 100 lots to Abelardo Estates, according to the agenda packet.

Martin Vega, senior planner for the city's Planning and Redevelopment Services Department, said the request is consistent with the comprehensive plan and future land use plan.

Vega said the proposed subdivision would require three to four access points and would use Abrego Road and, potentially, April Lane.

De los Santos said the request could potentially result in four or five times more traffic on Abelardo Road.

Lina Romero, who lives at the entrance of Abelardo Drive,

stepped up to the lectern to voice her concerns.

"You're going to have the traffic going 70 miles an hour traveling into one lane," Romero said.

Abrego Road has one stop sign that separates 70 miles per hour traffic and the neighborhood.

Romero said that she is not opposed to the development of homes in that area but that it will create a safety hazard.

Eight other residents of Abelardo Estates spoke about other issues besides traffic such as, no streetlights, no sidewalks and no proper drainage.

"We've lived our life for 30 years, we've raised our children, and to see something like this happen to our street, our quiet street, which we have all together fought to maintain is really sad to see," Romero said.

Jorge Depau, a representative of Raluz Properties LLC., said he understands the residents' concern and has seen the condition of the street.

On behalf of Raluz Properties LLC., Depau requested that the city pay closer attention to the safety and security of

residents' needs but still wanted to address that he was in full compliance with city ordinances that are necessary for the access to Abrego Road.

The developer said that the original design and plan was proposed in 1980, before 1984, when the Abelardo Estates residents moved in.

"It was a proposed residential area," Depau said. "We are not doing anything different other than finally developing."

He said the proposal contemplated a connected subdivision to the north of Abelardo Estates.

Depau requested the commission to consider Raluz Properties LLC. to move forward with the development.

"I feel there's too many issues and we need to fix what they're going through right now before we can think about having others or another development in the area," District 2 City Commissioner Linda C. Macias said.

De los Santos motioned to deny the request and District 1 City Commissioner Bryan L. Martinez seconded.

EDINBURG

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community."

Planning and zoning staff approved to rezone the residential suburban district to residential primary district, based on land uses in the area and because there was no opposition from the 17 property owners notified, according to Acevedo.

"The infrastructure is not there, the water infrastructure is not there," said resident Stephanie Hessel. "The person who is trying to develop it is not going to benefit by the lots being that small. We don't have a sewer structure. ... Please vote against this."

Rio Delta Engineer Ivan Garcia spoke during the public hearing portion of the meeting and said he was unaware of the

disapproval by the residents. He said he would be open to meeting with them to work out a resolution.

Place 3 Councilmember Johnny Garcia said his main concern was safety. He said there were many improvements that Gwin Road needed before development could proceed.

"When residents show up and add concerns, it's very hard to go against them," said Place 1 Councilmember Daniel 'Dan' Diaz. "We're here to represent the residents, and although we want growth, I always advocate for the developers and the engineers to talk to the neighbors first."

Place 2 Councilmember Jason De Leon, asked councilmembers if they would consider bringing the item to the next meeting, giving a

chance for the developer and the residents to meet and come to an agreement.

Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr. said, "this has to do with a lack of infrastructure, it's an area that does not have the improvements," and that a conversation between the developers and residents would not solve that problem.

In a unanimous vote, the motion for rezoning was denied by the city councilmembers. Garza said a discussion on how to improve Gwin Road will be brought up in a future meeting.

In other news, city councilmembers approved an ordinance for the 15th annual "Love Your Cha-Chas" 5K run or walk scheduled at 8 a.m. Oct. 28 at the Richard Flores Stadium in Edinburg.