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BEST WEEK EVER



Manuela Ramirez/THE RIDER

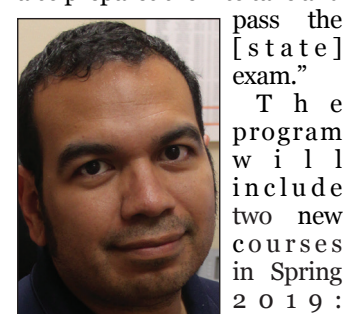
UTRGV President Guy Bailey talks with senior Cynthia Garcia during the Picnic with the President last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus. Members of the campus community were treated to hamburgers, chips, cookies and soft drinks. More photos on Page 6

UTRGV adds addiction studies program

Ana Trujillo
THE RIDER

UTRGV's brand-new bachelor of science in addiction studies will allow students to prepare to become licensed chemical dependency counselors in Texas.

"It is to meet the educational requirements for licensure as a chemical dependency counselor," said Eluterio Blanco Jr., a clinical instructor and coordinator of the Addiction Studies program. "We are hoping that this degree not only satisfies the educational requirements, but also prepares them to take and



Eluterio Blanco Jr.

pass the [state] exam." The program will include two new courses in Spring 2019: Current Issues in Addiction Studies (REHS 3380) and Principles of Addiction Counseling (REHS 4365). In Fall 2019, the courses also offered will be Special Populations in Addiction Studies (REHS 4320) and Addiction Counseling Skills (REHS 4370).

"With this new degree comes a development of at least four new courses that are specific to addiction counseling and
See ADDICTION, Page 8

Arena largest indoor venue in Deep South Texas



Aahliya Garza/THE RIDER

Edinburg Mayor Richard Molina (holding gold scissors); daughters of the late Bert Ogden, Kathy Ogden Powell and Janet Ogden Vackar; Bert Ogden Auto Group CEO Robert C. Vackar; Yoli Cantú and her husband, developer Alonzo Cantú, take part in the ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of the Bert Ogden Arena Aug. 27 in Edinburg.

Kathryn Alonso
THE RIDER

Over 200 people filled seats in front of a small stage outside the Bert Ogden Arena Aug. 27 to witness the opening of the 210,000-square-foot facility.

Edinburg Mayor Richard Molina; Janet Ogden Vackar and Kathy Ogden Powell, daughters of the late Bert Ogden; Robert C. Vackar, CEO of the Bert Ogden Auto Group; Alonzo Cantú, president of Cantú Construction; and his wife, Yoli Cantú, cut the ribbon to represent the official opening of the arena.

Cantú donated the land where the building is located and entered into a public/private partnership with the City of Edinburg, according to an email from Yajaira Flores, director of booking and marketing director for Bert Ogden Arena.

Vipers Arena LLC funded \$58 million toward construction of the building and Cantú is leasing the building for the next 30 years from the City of Edinburg, Flores wrote in an email to *The Rider* last Wednesday.

The City of Edinburg is investing \$30 million in the construction of the

arena through the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Fund, according to the email.

Molina spoke about the work that Cantú has put into the arena and said that Cantú's attention to detail shows he is "completely vested in the project."

The mayor also said the arena will change the entertainment and sports business in the Rio Grande Valley. He said it is the largest indoor arena in South Texas and it will prove to be useful for all kinds of events.

"This place is where 9,000 spectators can comfortably enjoy a show with plenty of legroom," Molina said, "and there is not a bad view in the house."

He said the arena will be a place where memories are made. Molina also said it is a "prime location" because it is off Interstate 69C.

"As a mayor of this great city, I can tell you I know it's going to have a tremendous economic impact on our city," he said.

Janet Vackar told *The Rider* she is excited for the arena's first events

See ARENA, Page 8

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



Club Spotlight



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Environmental Awareness Club officers include (from left) Vice President Joshua Torres, President Alesi Almaguer, Secretary Laura Lopez, Farmers Market Director Suzanne El-Haj, Treasurer Martha Garcia, Recruitment Officer Sheila Patel and Historian Beatriss Flores.

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the student organizations at UTRGV. This is the second in our series. The Rider interviewed Alesi Almaguer, president of the Environmental Awareness Club, for information.

Name: Environmental Awareness Club

President: Alesi Almaguer

Vice President: Joshua Torres

Secretary: Laura Lopez

Treasurer: Martha Garcia

Farmers Market Director: Suzanne El-Haj

Historian: Beatriss Flores

Recruitment Officer: Sheila Pate

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--Compiled by Joahana Segundo

Want your club featured? Email us at TheRider@utrgv.edu or call us at 882-5143 in Brownsville and 665-2541 in Edinburg!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday
TED talks
The Center of Excellence in STEM Education

presents **Carrie Green** and **Stephen Duneier** with two TED talks from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at the UTRGV STEM Center EMAGC 2.412 on the Edinburg campus. Green is the founder of the Female Entrepreneur Association and Duneier is an investment manager and author. For more information, call 665-7836.

Orange Out for Hunger

The **UTRGV Volleyball Team** will face **University of the Incarnate Word** at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. September is **“Orange Out” for Hunger Action Month** and fans are encouraged to donate five nonperishable food items to receive a free ticket to the match. All

donations benefit **Food Bank RGV Inc.** For more information, call 665-2221.

Wednesday

Billiards Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **billiards tournament** from noon to 4 p.m. in the game room on the Edinburg campus. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn V-Bucks. To participate in Student Union events, you must present your Vaquero One Card. For more information, call 665-7890.

Madden Release Party

All UTRGV football fans can play the new release of **“Madden NFL 19”** for free from noon to 3 p.m. at the Brownsville game room. For more information, call 665-7890.

Thursday

Rhythm Night

The **Student Union** will provide **free**

dance lessons from 6 to 8 p.m. in the UTRGV Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

Late Night at the Rec

Learn about the **University Recreation** facilities and recreation programs offered at the Edinburg campus from 9 p.m. to midnight at the UREC in Edinburg. In Brownsville, **Late Night at the Rec** will take place from 8 to 11 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Recreation Center. For more information, call 665-7808 or email urec@utrgv.edu.

Friday

Fortnite Fridays

Students who love to play **“Fortnite”** can do it for free and enjoy snacks from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the game room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

POLICE REPORTS

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



Aug. 22

9:39 a.m.: A faculty member's bike was stolen from the bike rack on the north side of the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus. The bike was left unsecured.

Aug. 23

7:56 a.m.: A staff member fell on an uneven sidewalk in the area of Lot E12 on the Edinburg campus. She hit her head and suffered a deep cut to her left eyebrow. A family member took her to a local hospital for evaluation.

11:57 a.m.: A staff member reported to a colleague that she was a victim of domestic violence off campus. An officer contacted the woman and she reported the perpetrator was a family member and the incident occurred in Harlingen at a previous residence. The Harlingen Police Department was contacted and the staff member's information was given to the UTRGV Police Department victim service specialist.

8:03 p.m.: A staff member at the Bursar's Office reported finding two sealed envelopes that contained money and receipts. It appeared one envelope contained money reported missing by the Bursar's Office in April 2018.

Aug. 24

5:30 p.m.: An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and detected the odor of marijuana. The driver was in possession of a belt that had metal knuckles as a buckle. The man was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana, prohibited weapon (knuckles) and possession of an open container.

Aug. 25

7:40 a.m.: An officer stopped a vehicle that made a right turn onto a one-way road at West University Boulevard in Brownsville. The officer noticed that the driver displayed signs of intoxication. The driver did not complete the field sobriety tests satisfactorily, and he was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of driving while intoxicated and was cited for no insurance and no driver's license.

Aug. 27

3:30 p.m.: A student on the Edinburg campus reported that she was being harassed by her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend who resides in Austin. She was encouraged to file reports with the respective agencies.

4:30 p.m.: A student who donated blood reported that she was feeling ill. While on the Bronc Trail in Edinburg, she fainted and fell off her bicycle. She was transported to a local hospital for

evaluation.

5:07 p.m.: An officer conducting a traffic stop for a seatbelt violation on Gorgas Drive on the Brownsville campus detected the odor of marijuana. The driver allegedly was in possession of a smoking pipe and a marijuana grinder. The case was referred to UTRGV Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Aug. 28

10:06 a.m.: While reviewing video footage from the University Library on the Edinburg campus, a UTRGV detective noticed a man who has an active criminal trespass warning. The man has an arrest history with UTRGV's Police Department for theft and criminal trespass. The case is under investigation.

10:16 a.m.: A student involved in a traffic collision on the Edinburg campus had a panic attack. An officer observed that the student had fresh self-inflicted cuts that were bleeding. The student said she made those cuts with the tip of a metal pen as a mechanism to cope with anxiety. The student was transported to a local hospital, and the incident was referred to UTRGV Students Rights and Responsibilities.

--Compiled by Ana Trujillo

Shield and protect

UTRGV Police launch emergency app

Victor G. Ramirez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The UTRGV Police Department has launched a new emergency app that aims to increase and ensure safety on campus.

As reported in The Rider on Aug. 27, the department introduced CampusShield, a free app that has key features, including an emergency button, anonymous report option, FriendWatch, Safe Walk and shuttle schedule.

Police Chief Raul Munguia said the app will function similarly to the Blue Light Emergency Phone. These emergency alarm stations were located on both Brownsville and Edinburg campuses; however, CampusShield is on a cellphone.

“Basically, what it is, [it’s] more of a replacement for the phasing out of the blue phones that are around campus,” Munguia said. “One thing with those blue phones is that they are old technology. I know some of them were based on the 2G network that ceased to exist about 10 months ago.”

Munguia said that during the last three years, the only phone calls the Blue Light Alarm System received were prank calls and one false report.

More than 100 crimes were reported to the University Police on both Brownsville and Edinburg campuses during 2016, according to the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2017.

The CampusShield provides various features:

- Emergency button sends the user’s location information to an emergency contact number
- Anonymous Report helps users



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER

CampusShield is a free app that connects users to UTRGV Police and aims to increase safety on campus.

report safety concerns, suspicious activities and crime tips

- FriendWatch sets a timer to notify the user’s friends or family members once the timer reaches 00:00
- Campus Resources links the person to the Student Services web page on the utrgv.edu website
- SafeWalk lets the user request a safety escort from the University Police or UT Public Safety security
- Campus Maps helps access the Edinburg and Brownsville campus maps.
- Bus Schedule links the users to the Parking and Transportation Services web page on the utrgv.edu website

Despite all the features, history

sophomore Alfonso Lopez said there could be some unforeseen issues with the app.

“[With FriendWatch], I foresee a lot of false alarms happening when people forget about it,” Lopez said. “It’s a good concept but not very practical.”

However, marketing sophomore Allan Galvan thinks the app is a good idea.

“I never heard of that app and that could have been very useful for me because I’m new to this school,” Galvan said. “I’m an exchange student from Mexico and I got lost like five times the first two days I was here, so it could’ve been a good help for me.”

In case of an active shooter event, the

app also allows the police department to locate the threat by tracking the calls from the users in distress.

“Say if we get people ... calling in about an active shooter, [if] they don’t tell us where they’re at, we will be able to tell where they are located on campus and this app will also tell us what floor they are on,” Munguia said. “This will be a time-saver in the event of an active shooter event, as long as the students use it and call us, using this particular app.”

The app does not track the user’s location unless the emergency button is pressed.

The Rider asked Mungia how much the app cost. He replied, “We’re not going to talk about money”, and referred *The Rider* to the purchasing department.

The UTRGV Police Department also offers the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training. The course is aimed at enabling civilians involved in an active shooter event within a campus environment to respond efficiently, safely and decisively, according to the UTRGV website.

“It explains what an active shooter is,” Munguia said. “It also explains what the normal reaction of a person is who has never been or involved or is not used to guns. ... It teaches them what to do in an event of an active shooter.”

For more information about CampusShield, visit the UTRGV Police Department’s website at utrgv.edu/police.

Global community in Valley

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER

Not even a strong drizzle and midday heat could stop international and domestic students from interacting with each other.

As part of the Best Week Ever festivities, the Office of Global Engagement and its supporting units organized the fourth annual International Meet & Greet on the Brownsville campus. In Edinburg, the event took place last Tuesday at the University Center Circle.

Samantha Lopez, director of the International Admissions and Student Services

department, said the purpose of the event was to welcome more than 750 international graduate and undergraduate students enrolled for the semester and showcase all the nationalities within UTRGV.

“We have more than 65 countries represented at UTRGV,” Lopez said.

Those countries include Brazil, Spain, Russia, India, Mexico and Canada.

The event started on the Brownsville campus Student Union lawn with the *Banda de Música de la Escuela Preparatoria por Cooperación Ricardo Flores Magón* playing popular songs such as “*La Bamba*” and “*La*

Mordidita.” The Ricardo Flores Magón cheerleaders, with colorful red attire, chanted and cheered to the rhythm of the band’s music.

UTRGV students carrying flags from different countries represented at the university also marched with the band all the way to the Main Courtyard.

Doris Cedillo, a music education senior, said she has volunteered in the event nine times since 2014 and as an international student from Mexico, she enjoys interacting with colleagues at these events.

The parade ended at the Main Courtyard, where tables from several UTRGV departments, such as the Learning Center, Housing and Residence Life, Graduate College and others, waited to present their services to the attendees.

Free hot dogs, drinks and *bolis* were available for students.

“It’s important for UTRGV to learn more about the cultures that are here within UTRGV: the countries, the different students that we have, to learn more about their customs and to recognize international education,” Lopez said.

Graduate student Mohammad Maruf Billah, from Bangladesh, said events,



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

The Banda de Música Halcones Preparatoria Federal por Cooperación Ricardo Flores Magón perform multiple popular songs, including “*La Bamba*,” last Thursday during the International Meet & Greet.

such as the International Meet & Greet, help bring international students together.

“The event is mind-blowing,” Billah said. “It’s a great gathering of the international students; we get to know each other, even the culture.”

Lopez said the Office of Global Engagement and its branches--International Admissions and Student Services, Language Institute and International Programs and Partnerships--always aim to follow UTRGV’s mission statement, which is to transform the Rio Grande

Valley with students from around the world.

“Within the whole year, we have more than 21 international students events through both campuses,” Lopez said.

Such events include Lunar New Year, International Education Week, the International Thanksgiving Luncheon as well as coffee and doughnuts every other week.

“We want to make sure that [students] feel at home,” Lopez said. “Even though they don’t have their families or their friends, we are their family here at UTRGV.”



Manuela Ramirez/THE RIDER

UTRGV international students participate in the parade for the Meet & Greet event.

Vaquero Voice



Thoughts on the Vaquer@ mascot



"I'm really indifferent towards it, but If I had to say anything, I think it's a lot better than what it was. I mean, it shows that we have an originality and it's unique to us. The vaquero is, like, we're Mexican-American and we have a vaquero instead of calling it a cowboy. We have it where it's our culture, which is actually pretty cool."

Mark Torres
Criminal justice junior

"I haven't seen it actually. ... It's kind of weird, I don't know, I don't like it. It looks too formal, not very schoolish, you know? I don't know, I picture a school mascot like a very big suit, when people are a tiger or whatever the school mascot is. I don't picture that as a mascot. To me, that just looks like a costume."

Rashelle Garcia
Art sophomore



"You know, I really like it. I think it's very adequate and goes along well with the theme and really brings out the spirit of the UTRGV, you know, being vaqueros and vaqueras and everything else. It's going to be a great season."

Juan Alonso
Biology senior

"I think the design is really clean, awesome and cool. ... I like the colors. I like the scarf that they put on it, the way it's trimmed to the body. There's a lot of little things here and there that were really nice, the boots. ... Mostly the colors, that's what pops out the most."

Olivia Garza
Theater junior



Women, rally and represent Enter the world of technology and engineering without fear



Karla Garcia
COPY
EDITOR

It's been a topic preached before and I will continue to preach it. We really need more female representatives in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. It's time, women. Let's show the world what we are capable of. Do it and own it!

A 2017 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce states that women hold only about 30 percent of all STEM degrees. The numbers dip even lower in engineering degrees.

Some might disagree with my encouragement; some might support it. There are some men nowadays who consider themselves feminists. You know what? You go, girl. You go, boy. Whatever you'd like to consider yourself. It doesn't matter because we're all fighting for the same cause. If we could all get on the same page, it would be a good thing. Women being treated as

equals has been a hot debate even before the days of the Civil War. We've progressed so much and have made many changes, but we still need to be treated with respect in academics.

I've been in math classes where it was slightly hinted that women are not as good as men in mathematics. Who in their right mind even thinks like that nowadays? Well, believe me, people like that still exist.

It's up to us to help change that mentality. I don't mean free the nipple or liberate yourself. I mean pick up a book or a newspaper, contact representatives, counsel others, be brave. Be independent and be strong. But most important, do it for yourself.

I'm sure that statement will either anger some or excite others. To this day, I don't know why the idea of women being treated as equals in fields such as the workplace or academia is still controversial.

No, I don't belong in the kitchen. I belong in a place where I am respected for my skills and thoughts, and that

doesn't mean I'm not good at cooking; It means that I have goals and a thirst for knowledge.

Women, we have to march on and make our voices be heard in the STEM community. If you have an idea, don't be afraid of it. Don't be afraid of being ridiculed or facing obstacles. Believe me, there will be obstacles, but it's up to us to face them head-on.

Educate yourself, deepen your understandings and broaden your horizons.

Let's make our numbers in engineering or math classes match those of men.

Let's continue the work of our previous generations' leaders, make progress and change for the betterment of ourselves and society as a whole.

We're not inferior or superior. We are equals and deserve to be treated as such.

We are the examples and role models that will be looked at in years to come. We are strong women with ideas and wit to match. Own it, run it, accomplish it.

We are women.

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.

Which parking permit have you purchased/will purchase this school year?

Zone 1	4%
Zone 2	35%
Resident Permit	4%
None	58%

Diversidad en UTRGV

Jessica Mendez
THE RIDER

Ni siquiera la fuerte llovizna, ni el calor de medio día evitaron que los estudiantes internacionales y nacionales interactuaran los unos con los otros. Como parte de las celebraciones del Best Week Ever, la Oficina de Compromiso Global y sus unidades de apoyo organizaron el cuarto evento anual International Meet & Greet el jueves pasado en el campus de Brownsville. En Edinburg, este mismo evento tomó lugar el pasado martes en el University Center Circle. Samantha Lopez, directora del departamento de Servicios para Estudiantes y Admisiones Internacionales, dijo que el propósito del evento era dar la bienvenida a los más de 750 estudiantes internacionales de grado y posgrado que están inscritos y mostrar a todas las nacionalidades que se pueden encontrar en UTRGV. “Tenemos más de 65 países representados por UTRGV”,

dijo Lopez. Esos países incluyen a Brasil, España, Rusia, India, México y Canadá. El evento empezó en la explanada de la Unión Estudiantil con la Banda de Música “Halcones” de la Preparatoria Federal por Cooperación Ricardo Flores Magón quienes interpretaron canciones populares como la “La Bamba” y “La Mordidita”. Las porristas de la preparatoria, con su colorido vestuario, encantaron y animaron al público conforme el ritmo de la banda de música. Estudiantes de UTRGV marcharon acompañados de la banda de música hasta el Main Courtyard mientras cargaban banderas de diferentes países representadas en la universidad. Doris Cedillo, una estudiante de último año en educación musical, dijo que se ha ofrecido como voluntaria en el evento nueve veces desde 2014 y como una estudiante internacional proveniente de México, disfruta interactuar



Robert Benavidez Jr./FOTOS THE RIDER

Estudiantes de la Banda de Música “Halcones” de la Preparatoria Federal por Cooperación Ricardo Flores Magón tocan el pasado jueves en el Main Courtyard en el campus de Brownsville. El International Meet & Greet es una oportunidad para los estudiantes internacionales y nacionales para compartir sus experiencias.

con los otros colegas en estos eventos. El desfile terminó en el Main Courtyard, donde varias mesas de diferentes departamentos de UTRGV, como el Learning Center, Housing and Residence Life, Graduate College y otros, esperaron para promover sus servicios a los asistentes. Se regalaron *hot dogs*, bebidas y *bolis* a los estudiantes. “Para UTRGV es importante aprender más acerca de las culturas que están dentro de UTRGV: los países, los diferentes estudiantes que tenemos, para aprender más sobre sus costumbres y reconocer a la educación internacional”, dijo Lopez.

Estudiante de posgrado Mohammad Maruf Billah, originario de Bangladés, dijo que eventos, tales como el International Meet & Greet, ayudan a unir a los estudiantes internacionales. “El evento es alucinante”, dijo Billah. “Es una grandiosa reunión de estudiantes internacionales; podemos llegar a conocernos entre nosotros, e incluso la cultura”. Lopez dijo que la Oficina de Compromiso Global y sus ramos--Servicios para Estudiantes y Admisiones Internacionales, el Instituto de Idiomas y Programas Internacionales y Asociaciones--siempre tienen la finalidad de seguir la misión de UTRGV, la cual es transformar al Valle del

Río Grande con estudiantes de alrededor del mundo. “En todo el año, tenemos más de 21 eventos de los estudiantes internacionales en los dos campus”, dijo Lopez. Dichos eventos incluyen Lunar New Year, Semana de la Educación Internacional (International Education Week), el International Thanksgiving Luncheon así como también café y donas cada dos semanas. “Queremos asegurarnos de que los estudiantes se sientan en casa”, Lopez dijo. “A pesar de que no tienen a sus familias o a sus amigos, nosotros somos su familia aquí en UTRGV”.



Estudiantes internacionales de UTRGV participan en el desfile del evento International Meet & Greet.

Festejando el altruismo

Centro comunitario celebra aniversario

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

El Good Neighbor Settlement House (Centro Comunitario El Buen Vecino) celebró su 65° aniversario el pasado miércoles en el Exceptional Emergency Center of Brownsville. La organización sin fines de lucro

fue fundada en 1953 por el First United Methodist Church (Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida) y proporciona servicios tales como alimento, baños y atención médica a la gente necesitada. Ellos sirven a alrededor de 250 personas al día y reciben cerca de \$250,000 dólares al año en donaciones de agencias incluyendo a United Way

of Southern Cameron County y Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation y otros contribuyentes. Jack White, el director ejecutivo de Good Neighbor Settlement House y también un profesor de trabajo social en UTRGV, dijo que los esfuerzos de los voluntarios es lo que hace a estos servicios posibles e invita

a la comunidad a ofrecerse como voluntarios. “Hay todo tipo de maneras en las que pueden preparar comida, servir comida o ayudar con el mantenimiento”, dijo White. “En este pueblo no existe casi nada que

Vea ANIVERSARIO, Página 8



Robert Benavidez Jr./FOTOS THE RIDER

Jack White, director ejecutivo de Good Neighbor Settlement House, habla durante la celebración del 65° aniversario del centro comunitario el pasado miércoles.



Se muestra el pastel conmemorativo de la celebración del aniversario del Good Neighbor Settlement House que tomó lugar el pasado miércoles.

BEST WEEK EVER



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Exercise science senior Tyler Gonzalez picks up free tacos Tuesday evening during the Stomp held on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are kinesiology senior Alex Romero (left) and mathematics junior Eduardo Torres.



Phillip D. Garcia/THE RIDER

UTRGV President Guy Bailey (center) serves food to members of the campus community Thursday during Picnic with the President on the Edinburg campus. The event was part of the university's Best Week Ever celebration.



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Pep Band welcomes students at the International Meet & Greet on the Edinburg campus.



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Interdisciplinary studies junior Odalis Chapa attempts to collect \$1 bills inside the money machine provided by Texas Regional Bank last Tuesday at the Stomp in Brownsville. Students had a chance to spin a prize wheel to enter the money machine.



Manuela Ramirez/THE RIDER

The Halcones band and dance team from Ricardo Flores Magón high school in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, perform for the International Meet & Greet event, held last Thursday on the Brownsville campus.

A brushstroke and a dream

Student attends art residency in New York

Britney Valdez
A&E EDITOR

UTRGV studio art senior Jose Lozano participated in an artist’s residency this summer in New York City, attending classes, networking with artists from all over the world and visiting iconic landmarks. Artist’s residency programs are intended to provide artists with the opportunity to reside in an institution with other artists and curators to hone their skills.

The program Lozano attended was hosted by the New York Academy of Art in New York City.

“[The] residency, in particular the one I went to, was intended for [us] to become familiar with the art program at the New York Academy of Art,” he said. “We were also there to experience the classes they offer, to see if I would be interested in possibly attending [graduate] school there.”

For the duration of the program, he and about 30 other artists attended five classes a week. The classes focused on painting, sculpture

and art history, according to Lozano.

“I spent a month at the school pretty much learning about the classes and getting familiar with the city and the program,” he said. “For this art residency, its [main purpose] is to absorb as much as you can.”

In addition to being a great learning experience, Lozano told *The Rider* that it is also an affordable alternative to studying abroad for art students.

“The cost was about \$3,000,” Lozano said. “It was affordable for me because, at first, I was thinking about doing study abroad, but that was going to be a bit more expensive and would only last about two weeks. So, I decided this program was really going to be a good fit for me.”

During his stay in New York, Lozano visited several art museums, such as the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Despite the travel experience, sightseeing and the knowledgeable lecturers he met during the residency, Lozano said the best part was

being able to see iconic works from artists, such as Van Gogh and Pablo Picasso, in person.

“The best experience I had while being in this residency was being able to be a full-time artist in New York and having museums available such as the Met to closely study paintings by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Raphael and many more of my favorite artists,” he said.

To enroll in the program, Lozano had to submit a portfolio and his transcripts for the selection.

“I had to turn in a portfolio of my works that had to be within six to 10 images and I sent them pictures of some drawings and paintings,” he said. “At least four of them had to be from life. I also had to send them my transcripts from my undergraduate [studies].”

He encourages fellow art students to be persistent and keep making art, applying to programs and searching for opportunities.

“I would advise students who are on the fence about pursuing art to keep on working,” Lozano said. “I met people at the program who worked about six to 10



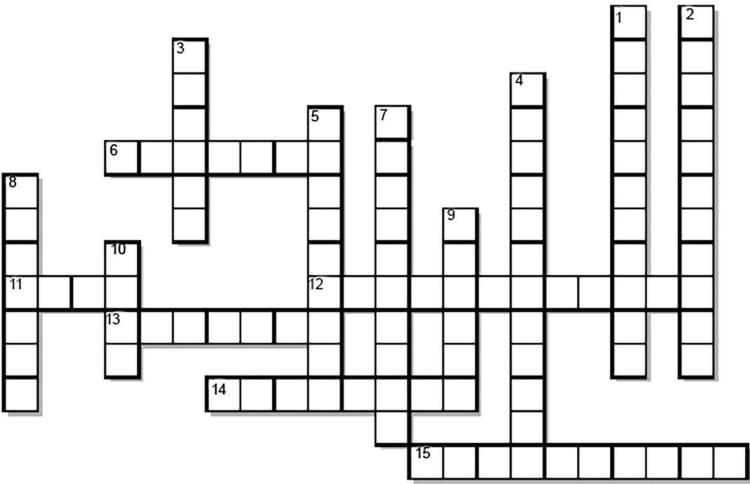
COURTESY PHOTO
UTRGV studio art senior Jose Lozano paints a portrait for an exhibition in December.

hours a day on their art alone and building relationships with a lot of different people.

Just keep learning, reading and collecting information wherever you go.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

HISPANIC ICONS



- Down**
1. Mexican-American civil rights activist. Co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association in 1962
2. Received a Golden Globe nomination for her role in “Desperate Housewives.” Also starred in “The Young and the Restless.”
3. “Queen of Tejano music”
4. Surrealist painter and printmaker well known for his painting “The Persistence of Memory”
5. Former MLB player, born in the Dominican Republic. Also the Chicago Cubs’ all-time home run leader
7. First U.S. Supreme Court Justice of Hispanic heritage Sonia _____
8. First Hispanic American to serve as Texas senator
9. Mexican-American writer best known for her first novel, “The House on Mango Street,” _____ Cisneros
10. Traveled with her companion Boots while teaching children Spanish
- Across**
6. Starred as Betty Suarez on the TV show “Ugly Betty,” _____ Ferrera
11. 2017 film, winner of Golden Globe Best Animated Motion Picture and Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film. Centered on “The Day of the Dead” holiday.
12. Liberated countries from Spain in South America, including Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia
13. Cuban-American actor Desi Arnaz played the husband of Lucille Ball; known for his catchphrase “Luuuuuicy, I’m home!” Ricky _____
14. Mexican-American, former professional boxer. Won gold medal in the 1992 Olympic games in Barcelona, Oscar _____
15. Known for his role as Slater on “Saved by the Bell” and for hosting shows such as “Extra”
- By Britney Valdez and Laia Vite**

Scribbles & Thoughts By Laia Vite

WHEN YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS



Brownsville holds tax rate, budget hearings

City proposes \$147.8M spending plan

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission has conducted its first public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax rate for Fiscal Year 2019 and the second one on its proposed \$147.8 million budget.

Last Tuesday, Finance Director Lupe Granado III presented an analysis of the effective, current and rollback tax rates. The tax rate recommended for FY 19 is the current 0.700613 cents per \$100 valuation, which balances the general fund budget. Although the same rate has been in effect since 2012, it represents a 1.81 percent increase over the effective tax rate.

The effective tax rate is \$0.688141, which would result in a \$712,311 shortfall in revenue, and the rollback rate is \$0.741376, which is 7.73 percent higher than the effective tax rate.

Pastor Brad Burkes, of the Embassy of the Spirit Bilingual Church, voiced his opposition to the proposed



Maleny Ortega/THE RIDER
City Commissioners (from left) Ricardo Longoria Jr., Jessica Tetreau Kalifa, Cesar de Leon, and Mayor Tony Martinez listen to public hearings on the ad valorem tax rate and proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

tax rate.

“Like always, I just encourage you not to increase the tax rate,” Burkes said. “I think we can look at our budget and look at what the

priorities of the people really are and concentrate on those things.”

District 1 Commissioner Ricardo Longoria Jr. told Burkes the tax rate has stayed

the same for years.

“I just think that maybe just maybe, sometimes, it’s better to grow just a little and take it as it goes,” Longoria said.

The second hearing on the

proposed tax rate is scheduled for Tuesday.

Jorge Santillan, the assistant finance director, addressed the commission on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

The city is proposing a budget of \$147,877,505 for FY 2019. Revenue from property taxes, fees and services, fine and forfeitures, etc., are anticipated to generate revenue of \$145,929,649, which would leave a deficit of \$1,947,856 in the budget.

That deficit would be covered by transfers from other funds, including the Fund Balance. Officials anticipate a fund balance of \$31,028,325 on Sept. 30, 2019, compared with \$32,647,894 for the current fiscal year.

The budget includes community priorities received during a budget town hall meeting on May 30. These priorities are police and fire, traffic/code and ordinance enforcement, administration, streets and drainage, culture and recreation, and vector

ADDICTION

Continued from Page 1

addiction studies,” said Fidencio Mercado, associate director and undergraduate coordinator for the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling.

Clinical placements will be offered at the end of the degree, and will provide students with opportunities such as clinical and work experience, and possible job placement, according to Mercado.

The program is seeking accreditation from the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC).

“We are not eligible to

apply for [NASAC] until our program is actually between year two or three,” Blanco said.

The program is fully online and will facilitate students from other parts of Texas to enroll.

“We decided to kind of reach out to more students, and anybody who lives within the state who wants to ... pursue this profession,” Blanco said. “We wanted to make it accessible for them so they can also enroll.”

UTRGV is the second university to offer this major. The other is the University of Houston-Clear Lake, whose program is called addictions counseling, which is similar, according to Blanco.

“This is only the second bachelor’s in addiction in

Texas,” Blanco said. “The University of Houston-Clear Lake, they actually launched theirs ... a year and a half ago, but theirs is only on campus.”

UTRGV’s program will be a standard four-year bachelor degree plan, and the only prerequisite is general psychology.

Students who are currently enrolled in the rehabilitation services bachelor’s degree with a concentration in addiction studies will have an easier transition into the addiction studies program, according to Blanco.

The minor in addiction studies will continue, and students in any major can pursue it. However, the concentration in addiction studies is no longer available.

“Beginning this semester, Fall 2018, that concentration will be phased out. ... Students will have to choose either a degree in rehab services or a degree in addiction studies,” Mercado said.

Students already in the concentration will be allowed to complete the degree. New students will have to decide if they want to become an addiction studies major.

According to Blanco, the feedback from students and staff has been good with the new major.

“I think there are a lot of people who are working in the field ... who might already be [a licensed chemical dependency counselor],” said Lynn Fischer, a lecturer and Rehab Club adviser. “They might wanna

take advantage of that to get a bachelor’s degree.”

Fischer said the program being online makes it available to more people who are interested in this career, without having to move from other parts of the state.

“There is a big need for addiction counselors,” Fischer said. “I think that ... having that degree available is being responsive to what the needs are in our area and in the country.”

The School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling will host a town hall meeting, which will be open to students interested in pursuing the major. It will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sept. 10 in Health Affairs Building West 1.402 on the Edinburg campus.

ARENA

Continued from Page 1

and appreciates the work that Cantú has put into the building.

“The doors are open,” Vackar said. “It’s going to be just spectacular family entertainment for everyone to come throughout the RGV. That is why Alonzo designed it, so it could fill up the whole stadium with all kinds of entertainment.”

Vackar also said Cantú made sure that the arena was Valley-made as a way to create more jobs for the area.

“The entire arena was built by the people from the Valley,” Vackar said. “He only hired contractors and subcontractors from the Valley. So, he wants it to be a venue that everyone can profit from.”

She also said that he only used local restaurants in

the arena and may add food trucks in the future.

Angelina Villarreal, who graduated from UTRGV last semester with a degree in mass communication, attended the grand opening as Miss Rio Grande Valley 2018.

Villarreal said she was happy to attend the opening and believes it will provide a lot for the Valley. She said her father’s business, AV Plumbing, was a part of the

master plumbing for the arena.

“I hope that it will help bring the community together,” she said. “That way, we have more events here and [residents] don’t feel they have to go outside the Valley to do things. But secondly, to improve the economics in the Valley because there are a lot of people who are struggling and it provides a lot of jobs.”

The venue is now the

official home of the NBA Development League Rio Grande Valley Vipers, according to the arena’s website (bertogdenarena.com).

The arena had its first event last Friday with singer Luis Miguel and will host WWE Live! Sept. 14. Entertainment next month includes singer Romeo Santos on Oct. 20.

ANIVERSARIO

Continuación de Página 5

pueda identificar como una habilidad que el Good Neighbor no necesite”.

Alexandra Guzman, una estudiante de trabajo social de UTRGV, es una pasante en el centro comunitario. Guzman dijo que disfruta su pasantía y ha aprendido mucho al ver lo que pasa detrás de todo el trabajo que realiza dicho centro.

“Ellos tienen que ofrecer muchos servicios para los

indigentes y para la gente que lo necesita”, dijo Guzman. “Eso es algo que yo quiero hacer, ayudar a los individuos a que encuentren los recursos que necesitan para tener una mejor vida”.

Frank Lara, un residente de Brownsville y presidente de Brownsville Elks Lodge No. 2876, también es un voluntario. Al preguntarle porque decidió ofrecerse como voluntario, Lara dijo que la gente necesita ayuda.

“No todos están bendecidos como nosotros”, dijo Lara.

“Continuaremos ayudando tanto como podamos”.

Xavier Anderson y Melissa Jareño, residentes de Brownsville que asistieron al evento, dijeron que les gusta lo que Good Neighbor hace para abogar por los necesitados.

“Ellos ayudan a la gente, tu sabes, lo básico, como nutrición, así que eso ayuda bastante, especialmente en esta comunidad”, Anderson dijo.

Jareño elogió a los muchos años de servicios de Good Neighbor.

“Mucha gente recuerda eso”, dijo Jareño. “Han tocado muchas vidas”.

Anderson también dijo que “en realidad es muy bueno tener una organización sin fines de lucro por 65 años”.

“Esto muestra que hay bastante apoyo local por parte de la comunidad”, él dijo. “Gente común, de igual manera, [echando] una mano a la gente que ha tenido un tiempo difícil en sus vidas”.

White reconoció a algunos de los individuos quienes han apoyado al Good Neighbor

Settlement House.

“Me gustaría agradecer al Dr. [Kazim] Hussain, Mary Yturria, el juez del condado, [Eddie Treviño Jr.], a todos los que han invertido tiempo de sus apretados horarios para salir y celebrar este evento con nosotros”, él dijo.

Para ofrecerse como voluntario, visite el Good Neighbor Settlement House, localizado en 1254 E. Tyler St. en Brownsville, para llenar una forma o descargue la forma en www.neighborsettlementhouseinc.org.

Ready, set, run!

Cross-country ready to begin season

Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS EDITOR

One year ago, the UTRGV Men’s and Women’s Cross-Country teams welcomed a new head coach to the program, Darren Flowers.

Last year was a season of adjustments for Flowers and the teams. Flowers said his first year as a coach was difficult because he was getting accustomed to the teams and the teams were getting accustomed to him.

“The fall was tough, it was a tough transition,” Flowers said. “I think they were still kind of feeling me out like, ‘Huh, what’s this guy all about?’ After we got to a certain point in the fall, I’d say November or December, we started turning a corner and we saw a lot of improvement in the kids.”

Both teams are ready to showcase what Flowers has instilled in them.

Leading the team on the women’s side is senior Jennifer Zapata. Zapata’s main goal for the team is to create strong connections among its members.

“Team bonding is something that we need to keep working on,” Zapata said. “Bonding, everybody feeling that they have a purpose in the team and they have to contribute to the team.”



Philip D. Garcia / THE RIDER

Members of the UTRGV Men’s Cross-Country Team are seniors Isaac Arevalo (front row, from left) and Alberto Herrera and freshmen Tristan Peña and Fernando Escobar. Middle row: junior Ricardo Mendoza, seniors Omer Almog and Brian Yañez and sophomores Jose Serna and Mikel Escobar. Back row: volunteer Assistant Coach Zach Daniel, freshmen Edward Ramos and Antoine Godin, junior Carlos Roguera, sophomore Juan Manzano and Head Coach Darren Flowers.

Following Zapata’s footsteps is senior Thalia Polanco, who competed in six meets during the 2017 season. Her top two finishes included 119th in the 6,000-meter race at the NCAA South Central Regional Championships and 44th in the 5,000-meter race at the Western Athletic Conference Championships.

Juniors Bryana Rios, Alma Villanueva and Monica Yañez are hoping to contribute their part to the success of the team.

In the 2017 season, Rios competed in six meets, including the 6,000-meter race in the NCAA meet, where she finished 138th. At the WAC Championships, she posted a 49th-place finish in the

5,000-meter race.

Villanueva finished in 144th place at NCAA with a time of 23:14.6. At the WAC Championships, Villanueva placed 37th.

Rounding out the list of juniors is Yañez, who competed in five meets last season. At the WAC Championships, she finished the 5,000-me-

ter race with a time of 21:00, which positioned her in 52nd place. Her top finish came at the Islander Splash in Corpus Christi, where she placed 20th.

Kelly Aguiñaga and Adriana Cruz are the sophomores on the team. As a freshman, Aguiñaga ran in six meets, including the NCAA and WAC Championships. At NCAA, she crossed the finish line with a 157th-place finish and came in 36th at the WAC championships.

This season, the team is welcoming nine female athletes to the program: sophomore Lauren Asiedu of Austin, who previously ran at Abilene Christian University; junior Sierra Spinler of Blue Springs, Mo.; and freshmen Mercy Chelangat, Dorcas Chepkogei and Sharon Koima of Kenya; Kyra Keurentjes of Wehl, Netherlands; Monica Rivera of Eagle Pass; Anahi Romo of Del Rio and Oma Sanchez of Palmview.

Coach Flowers said the freshmen coming into the team can play a vital role in the success of the women’s team.

“On the women’s side, freshmen can definitely make a big impact on this team,” Flowers said. “For our women’s team, I really do expect those freshmen to come in and contribute big.”

See SEASON, Page 12

■ Column

Saying goodbye to Manu



Juanita Maldonado
SPORTS EDITOR

Aug. 27 was a sad day for the basketball community, especially for San Antonio Spurs fans. After 16 seasons with the NBA team, 41-year-old Manu Ginobili announced his retirement from basketball in a tweet.

“Today, with a wide range of feelings, I’m announcing my retirement from basketball. IMMENSE GRATI-

TUDE to everyone (family, friends, teammates, coaches, staff, fans) involved in my life in the last 23 years. It’s been a fabulous journey. Way beyond my wildest dreams.”

Ginobili began playing for the Spurs during the 2002-2003 season. In 2003, he won his first championship title with the team and had the honor of making it to the All-Tournament team. From there, his career skyrocketed.

The Argentina native became the center of attention for fans around the world. He appeared in 218 playoff games

with the team and scored a total of 1,057 points throughout his career. With the Spurs, he obtained three more championships in 2005, 2007 and 2014.

Ginobili is the last of the fantastic four to leave. First, it was Tim Duncan, then Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard.

It is a time of transition for the Spurs. The new players will have big shoes to fill and adjust to not having Ginobili on the court.

Fans all over the world have shown the sadness they feel upon hearing of Ginobili’s re-

tirement. Longtime basketball fan Tyler Martinez, a kinesiology senior at UTRGV, said he is saddened to see Ginobili go.

“I’m very sad because he was such an amazing player to watch,” Martinez said. “He was a very different player to watch because you never knew what he was going to do with the ball. Growing up just watching the Spurs you get so accustomed to watching him play.”

Reading up on articles and evaluating everyone’s reaction to Ginobili’s announcement, I believe that the Spurs will

experience a time of change, growth and learning.

The organization will need to adjust to seeing new players on the court, but it is not entirely up to the players.

I am sure that with a head coach like Gregg Popovich, the Spurs will continue to have success on the court. It might take time to adjust, but it is not impossible.

For now, we say goodbye to Ginobili and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.



Antone Jarvis is a marketing senior from London, England, and a defender on the UTRGV Men’s Soccer Team.

What do you like to do for fun? “I like watching anime ... like ‘Naruto’ and ‘My Hero Academia.’”
If you won one million dollars, what would you do with that money? “Buy my mom a house and buy my Aunty Mary a house.”

What is one type of food that you really like but others find weird? “I like oxtail. Not many people like oxtail. It’s a Caribbean dish.”

How do you feel about people putting pineapple on pizza? “I’m all fine [with it], to be honest, but if someone buys it for me, I will eat it out of respect. Why would you put fruit on a pizza? It doesn’t make sense. Would you put apples on pizza?”

What goes first into the bowl, cereal or milk? “Milk first, because I like to warm it up. I like my cereal hot.”

If someone asked to be your apprentice, what would you teach them? “How to make money and hustle hard. But all the cheap ways to be a money saver ... like [using] \$5 coupons.”

What was cool when you were young but isn’t cool now? “Skipping ropes. ... I couldn’t skip to save my life, but I wanted to skip.”

Describe your ideal date? “I get picked up at 5 o’clock, I get taken to my favorite restaurant, we go watch a movie, and then we go bowling, ice skating and then we go outside and look at the stars and we talk about life. Then you drop me home, I go home happy.”

Do you squirt the ketchup on the fries or do you dip the fries in the ketchup? “Oh, dip the fries. You have to dip the fries. It’s finger food. Why would you mess up your fingers?”

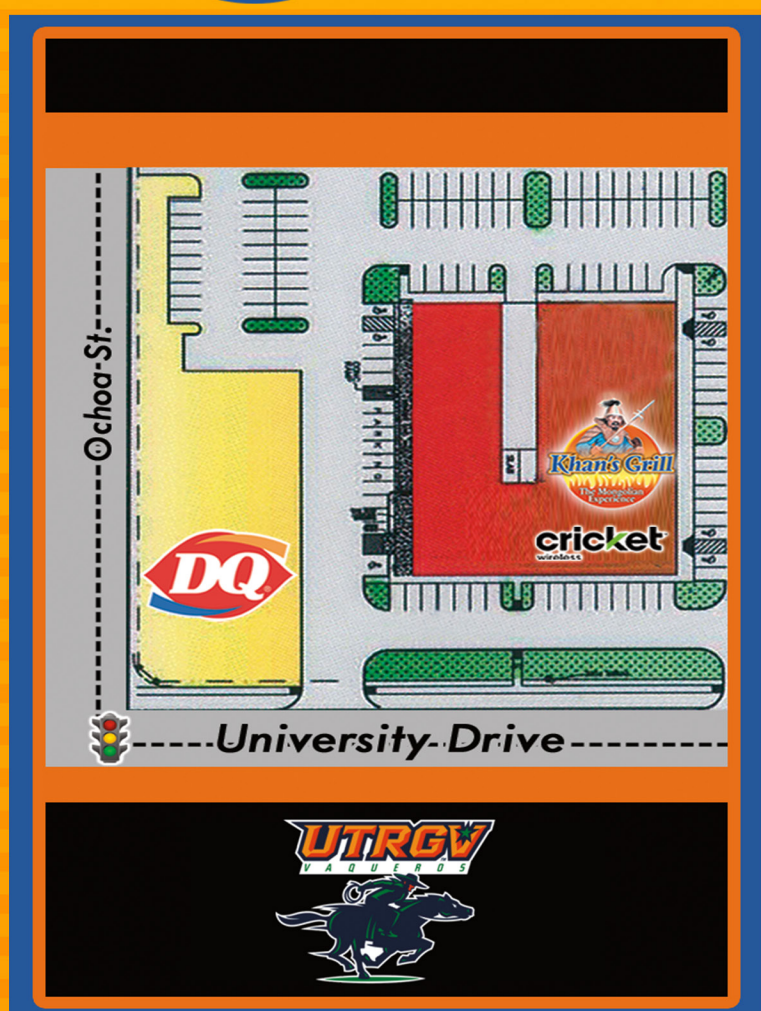
--Compiled by Aaliyah Garza



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CELEBRATING HELPING HANDS

Good Neighbor Settlement House marks 65th year

Maleny Ortega
THE RIDER

The Good Neighbor Settlement House celebrated its 65th anniversary last Wednesday at the Exceptional Emergency Center of Brownsville.

The nonprofit agency was established in 1953 by the First United Methodist Church and provides services to the needy such as meals, showers and health care. They serve about 250 people a day and receive around \$250,000 per year in grants from agencies including the United Way of Southern Cameron County and the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation and other contributors.

Jack White, the executive director of the Good Neighbor Settlement House and a UTRGV social work lecturer, said volunteer efforts are what make the services possible and invites the community to volunteer.

“There are all kinds of ways in which you can prepare food, serve food or help with maintenance,” White said. “There’s almost nothing that you can identify as a skill in this town that Good Neighbor doesn’t need.”

Alexandra Guzman, a UTRGV social work senior,

is an intern at the settlement house. Guzman said she enjoys interning and has learned a lot by seeing what happens behind the scenes.

“They have to offer a lot of services for, like, the homeless and for people who are in need,” Guzman said. “That’s something that I want to do, help individuals find the resources they need to have a better life.”

Frank Lara, a Brownsville resident and president of Brownsville Elks Lodge No. 2876, is also a volunteer. Asked why he decided to volunteer, Lara said that people need help.

“Not everybody is blessed like us,” Lara said. “We’ll continue helping for as long as we can.”

Xavier Anderson and Melissa Jareño, Brownsville residents attending the event, like what the Good Neighbor is doing to help the needy.

“They help people out with, you know, the simple basics, such as nutrition, so that helps a lot, especially in this community,” Anderson said.

Jareño complimented the Good Neighbor’s many years of work.

“A lot of people remember them,” Jareño said. “They’ve touched a lot of lives.”



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

First United Methodist Church Rev. Phillip Hoeflinger speaks during the 65th anniversary celebration for the Good Neighbor Settlement House last Wednesday at the Exceptional Emergency Center of Brownsville.

“It’s actually very nice having a nonprofit for 65 years,” Anderson added. “I think that shows that there’s a lot of local support from the community ... just regular people, as well, [lending] a hand for people that obviously hit a hard time in life.”

White recognized some

of the individuals who have supported the Good Neighbor Settlement House.

“I’d like to thank Dr. [Kazim] Hussain, Mary Yturria, the county judge, [Eddie Treviño Jr.], everybody that’s taken time out of their busy schedule to come and just celebrate this event with us,” he said.

To volunteer, visit the Good Neighbor Settlement House, located at 1254 E. Tyler St. in Brownsville, to fill out a form or download the form online at www.neighborsettlementhouseinc.org.

WATER YOU DOING, EDINBURG?

Residents comment on how city money is spent

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

During a special meeting last Tuesday, the Edinburg City Council heard from residents who voiced their concerns on how the city spends money.

The special meeting was held to conduct the second public hearing on a proposed property tax revenue increase for Fiscal Year 2019, which begins Oct. 1, but the majority of the comments were made during the public comment section of the meeting.

“It seems like we’re always paying taxes, and it’s always more and more and more ... but I’m not seeing much from the city,” said Heriberto Anaya, a concerned property owner.

Mayor Richard Molina asked Anaya to specify what he was lacking.

“I live on Owassa Road,” Anaya said. “... My main concern is in regards to the Owassa project. The city annexed us here about three years ago under the understanding that we were going to be provided with all of the utilities. ... We’re still pending most of those things.”

Anaya explained the City of Pharr has provided him with water for the last 30



Zugay Treviño/THE RIDER

Mike Mesa, a consultant for local cities, tells the Edinburg City Council drainage projects may cost more than the city has budgeted, possibly by 10 percent to 15 percent. Mesa spoke during last Tuesday’s special meeting.

years, and he pays his bill to Pharr.

“We do not have water service from the City of Edinburg,” he said.

Anaya told the mayor he hopes the council can find a solution.

Mike Mesa, a consultant for local cities, voiced his concern regarding the amount of money spent on drainage projects.

“I see you’re wanting to issue bonds for \$30 million, \$20 million for drainage,” Mesa said.

He explained his concern is that when he tallies up the project costs, the city will spend \$19.5 million.

“I’m developing projects in two local cities, and the engineers on those projects

He suggested the city apply to grant programs by FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

During the meeting, Molina also asked about taxes.

“Are we increasing taxes, for the record?” Molina asked.

“No, we are not increasing tax rates,” replied Ascencion Alonzo, the city’s director of Finance. “The vote will be on September the fourth.”

During the second public hearing on the proposed tax revenue increase, Fern McClaugherty spoke against the hike.

“You see how the public is hurting, and our thing with the tax rate is, you could lower it, one penny, half a penny, or something,” said McClaugherty, a member of the Objective Watchers of the Legal System.

As reported Aug. 24 in *The Rider*, although the 2018-2019 proposed tax rate will remain at \$0.6350 per \$100 valuation, if adopted, it will increase property tax revenues by 4.03 percent over the effective tax rate. The property tax revenue increase is attributed mainly to property value increase, new improvements and new annexations.

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SEASON *Continued from Page 9*

Flowers is looking for the same success to happen on the men's side, although it can be a tough transition for the newcomers.

"We have a lot of good talent coming in," Flowers said. "It's a lot harder for freshmen on the guys side just because the jump to 10k, from 5k to 10k, is so big, so it does take a little bit of time for the freshmen to really make an impact but we're hoping that some of them can get in there and help us."

The freshmen looking forward to the challenge are Abraham Chirchir of

Iten, Kenya, and Antoine Godin from Toulouse, France, plus Valley natives Fernando Escobar and Edward Ramos of Harlingen, Cosme Ibarra of Donna and Tristan Peña of Edinburg.

Taking the freshmen under their wing are seniors Omer Almog, Isaac Arevalo, Alberto Herrera, Mathew Peynado and Brian Yañez.

This will be the first year of competition for Almog with the program.

Arevalo and Herrera are no strangers to the program. In 2017, Arevalo competed in five meets. His best performance was at the WAC Indoor Championships, where he contributed to a second-place finish in the distance

medley relay team.

Herrera competed in six meets during the previous season. He obtained an 83rd-place finish at NCAA in the 10,000-meter race with a time of 32:16.2. At the WAC Championships, he landed a 20th-place finish in the 8,000-meter race.

Rounding out the list of seniors are Peynado and Yañez, who both made an appearance at the NCAA meet and WAC Championships. At NCAA, Peynado came in 133rd and finished in 30th place at WAC. Yañez finished in 77th at NCAA and 32nd at WAC.

The juniors for the team are Ricardo Mendoza and Carlos Roguera. Both

men competed at only two meets. Mendoza ran at the annual Chile Pepper Festival and the Islander Splash. Roguera competed at the Islander Splash and the Texas A&M University Aggie Opener.

Completing the team are sophomores Mikel Escobar, Juan Manzano and Jose Serna. Escobar competed in two meets, which included the Islander Splash (20th place) and Aggie Opener (57th). Manzano ran in six meets, including the NCAA meet, where he came in 143rd. Serna placed 137th at NCAA.

Both teams began their season last Friday at the Aggie Opener in College

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UTRGV 101
Intro to university life

Answers for Aug. 27 crossword