



## A UTRGV MARRIED COUPLE

Two Mathematics and Science Academy employees share their love story with the campus community. **See Page 9**



## SPREADING THE LOVE

Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville expresses gratitude to Wyoming volunteers. **See Page 6**

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

# THE RIDER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018

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/UTRGVRIDER



@UTRGV\_THERIDER

# WORST DATES!



CUPID,  
you really  
screwed  
up on  
this one

## Sydni D. Salinas

A&E EDITOR

**H**ave you ever had an extremely, and I mean awful date? The kind of date that makes you want to hide in your room for the rest of the day because you're embarrassed about the events that unfolded?

Personally, I can tell you my worst date was with my high school boyfriend, who decided to tell me on our Valentine's Day date that he was breaking up with me.

With the brownies and cookies wrapped in heart-shaped boxes that I had made him in my hand, I sat outside my house crying away because I was too embarrassed to tell my parents what happened.

And yes, I cried and simultaneously ate the baked goodies. It's called multitasking, all right?

Whether it was the adolescent moments or present-day dates, people can just be awful sometimes, or random unseen events can unfold that make the dating experience such an awkward affair.

Wanting to know your worst dates, *The Rider* reached out to several students and professors asking what theirs were. Kinesiology junior Ariel Ayala had misadventures in the bathroom on her date.

"As soon as the movie started, I had to go to the restroom. I had a pickle, and I guess it was a bad pickle," Ayala said. "I was in the restroom half the time, for at least a good 30, 40 minutes. I felt so embarrassed and I didn't want to go back in. The guy even texted asking, 'What's wrong?' and where I was at. I had to make up some excuse that I was getting something to eat."

Computer science freshman David Damken was unluckier on his date than Ayala.

"I went to pick up this girl, and I left the car keys inside the car," Damken said. "So, her dad actually helped me

See **WORST DATES!**, Page 7



Happy Valentine's  
Day! <3 <3 <3

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# THE RIDER

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

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## MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today**

**Recovery Meetings**

The **Collegiate Recovery Program** hosts **recovery meetings** as follows: **Alcoholics Anonymous** at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, **SMART Recovery** at noon on Tuesdays, **Narcotics Anonymous** at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and noon Fridays, **Tobacco Intervention** at noon on Wednesdays, and the **Al-Anon Family Group** at noon on Thursdays. All meetings are held in University Center 102 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

**Magic: The Gathering Tournament**

The **Student Union** will host its **Magic: The Gathering Tournament** at noon in The Loft on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

**Monday Night Chess**

The **Chess Club** will host its **Monday Night Chess** event from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in ESTAC 1.112A on the Edinburg campus. For more information, email [david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu](mailto:david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu), or call (832) 908-5462.

**Tuesday**

**Involvement Fair**

**Student Involvement** will host its **Involvement Fair** to promote its programs and student organizations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus and the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-2660.

**Mardi Gras**

The **Student Union** will host its **Mardi Gras** celebration at noon in the PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-5111.

**I Hate Valentine's Day Party**

The **Student Union** will host its **I Hate Valentine's Day Party** at 6:30 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. The

event will also take place at the same time Wednesday in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

**Wrestler O'Neil Livestream**

**UTRGV Student Life** will host a livestream for its **Speaker Broadcast** featuring professional wrestler and former Arena Football League player **Titus O'Neil** from 6 to 7 p.m. in Sabal Hall 1.106 and in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus. **O'Neil** will discuss his leadership journey. For more information, call 665-2260.

**Wednesday**

**Support Group**

The **Collegiate Recovery Program** will host an **Addiction and Recovery Support Group** at 11 a.m. in Cortez

### Have an announcement?

Email us at  
[TheRider@utrgv.edu](mailto:TheRider@utrgv.edu)

Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

**Ash Wednesday**

The **Catholic Campus Ministry** will celebrate **Ash Wednesday Mass** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 383-0133, or email [catholicvaqueros@gmail.com](mailto:catholicvaqueros@gmail.com).

**Thursday**

**Engaged Scholars Workshop**

The **Engaged Scholarship and Learning Office** will host a workshop on how to create a better poster for presentations from 12:15 to 1:20 p.m. in ESTAC 2.130 on the Edinburg campus and in Life and Health Sciences Building 1.312 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-3461 or 882-4300.

## POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 1 and 5.*



**Feb. 1**

**11:29 a.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the Biomedical Research & Health building in reference to an active fire alarm.

The building was evacuated and officers determined the smoke alarm was triggered by heavy steam from animal cages that were being cleaned. The building was cleared for re-entry by Environmental Health and Safety staff.

**1:01 p.m.:** Officers responded to the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus due to a student causing a disturbance, banging the glass panels, in reference to his payroll check. Officers informed him of the proper procedure for handling payroll issues. The report was referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

**4:05 p.m.:** A staff member reported losing his access card at the Medical Education Building on the Edinburg campus. The card has since been deactivated.

**4:05 p.m.:** A student reported an unknown man exposed himself to him in the men's restroom on the first floor of the Performing Arts Complex on Jan. 31. This case is under investigation.

**Feb. 2**

**11:51 a.m.:** A staff member at the Performing Arts Complex reported a student displayed an obscene video post to the official UTRGV Twitter

### University Police

**Brownsville  
Dispatch**

882-8232

**Edinburg  
Dispatch**

665-7151

**Email:** [Police@utrgv.edu](mailto:Police@utrgv.edu)  
**Campus Emergency:** 882-2222



account. The link was taken down by the student when contacted by Student Rights and Responsibilities. The report was referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

**12:15 p.m.:** A faculty member at the Health Affairs Building East on the Edinburg campus reported losing a UTRGV ID access card.

**12:31 p.m.:** A student reported that his tablet computer was stolen from a classroom in the Main Building on

**Thursday Night Blitz**

The **Chess Club** will host its weekly tournament from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in ESTAC 1.112A on the Edinburg campus. Beginners and casual players are welcome. For more information, email [david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu](mailto:david.ortizo2@utrgv.edu), or call (832) 908-5462.

**Love Your Heart**

The **Valley Regional Medical Center**, 100-A Alton Gloor Blvd. in Brownsville, will host its **Love Your Heart** event from 5 to 7 p.m. A panel of cardiologists will discuss ways to improve heart health from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. CPR demonstrations will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 350-7000.

**Friday**

**Alegría 2018**

The **UTRGV Ballet Folklórico** will perform its ballet concert **Alegría 2018** at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. The event will also take place at the same time Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are

\$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens/students and \$5 for children. For more information, call 665-3881.

**Saturday**

**Regional Science Bowl 2018**

The **2018 Regional Science Bowl** will take place from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the College of Business & Entrepreneurship and Mathematics and General Classrooms buildings on the Edinburg campus. The public is invited to view the projects at 3:45 p.m. For more information, call 665-3361 or email [HESTEC@utrgv.edu](mailto:HESTEC@utrgv.edu).

**Service Saturday**

**Student Involvement** will host its **Service Saturday** from 8 a.m. to noon at CASA of Cameron and Willacy Counties, located at 1740 Boca Chica Blvd., Suite 300. This will give participants the chance to earn community service hours. For more information, call 882-5111.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

the Brownsville campus. The item was left unattended. The case is under investigation.

**1:06 p.m.:** A Chick-fil-A employee at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus reported receiving suspected counterfeit U.S. currency from a student as payment. The bill was seized and will be forwarded to the U.S. Secret Service for verification. The case is under investigation.

**Feb. 4**

**4:19 p.m.:** An officer responded to a report of possible lewd conduct in a study room on the second floor of the Brownsville library. The case is under investigation.

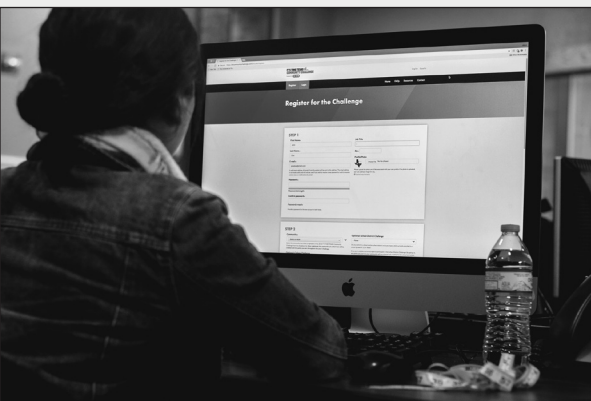
**Feb. 5**

**8:23 a.m.:** A staff member at the Student Services building on the Edinburg campus reported placing her state-issued cellphone and several personal items inside a trash can in her office due to a water leak, to avoid water damage to said items. She returned the following day and found the trash can had been emptied. Facilities informed the staff member that the trash had already been picked up for the day. The case was generated for documentation purposes.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

Visit us online at [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)





Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

# UTRGV steps ahead in state health challenge

**Eric Montoya**  
SPANISH EDITOR

UTRGV is currently in first place in the large-university category in It’s Time Texas Community Challenge, with over 100 registrants.

The community challenge started Jan. 8. It is sponsored by H-E-B and hosted by the nonprofit organization, It’s Time Texas.

The statewide organization focuses on “dramatically improving the landscape of health and wellness in Texas,” according to [www.itstimetexas.org](http://www.itstimetexas.org).

In an interview with *The Rider*, Cindy Salazar-Collier, Rio Grande Valley regional coordinator for It’s Time Texas, said the challenge “is a statewide competition among all of the communities, school districts and universities of the state to see which can engage in the most healthy actions.”

“The purpose of this challenge is to promote health involvement and to change the culture of health among the communities of the state of the Texas,” Salazar-Collier said. “We are not a weight loss competition. ... The community challenge is really just to embrace health involvement and to encourage people to adopt a healthy lifestyle.”

More than 70 Texas universities are registered in the challenge, according to Salazar-Collier.

She said UTRGV is in first place in the large-college category with over 100 registrants, giving the university 83,900 points.

“You all are winning in the large-college category by over 40,000 points with Texas Tech coming in second place,” Salazar-Collier said. “In the Rio Grande Valley as a whole, we have over 2,000 individuals who have registered for the Community Challenge.”

It’s Time Texas Regional Assistant Ralf Lopez said the categories are organized by population.

“It is city against city, like, Brownsville would compete against a same size city. UTRGV would compete against a same size university,” Lopez said.

He said the communities, universities or school districts with the most points would win. He also said one of the ways participants can accumulate points is by taking photos of themselves doing healthy activities.

“You are drinking a glass of water. You take a selfie of it and you upload it to our website and you get points for that,” Lopez said. “You can input how much weight you have lost, how much exercise you have done. If you have like a Fitbit or an [Apple] Watch or something like that, you can link it to our website and that will track it for you.”

He said school principals or superintendents can sign pledges and upload a photo of the pledge to earn points for the community challenge.

Salazar-Collier said people have the option to designate their points to either a university or a school district, besides giving the points to their communities.

“[You] register under Brownsville and then it will ask if you want to designate your points to a school district or a university,” she said. “If students were to register, they can also allocate their points in that manner. Basically, anybody in the community that wants to give their points to UTRGV can do so.”

Brownsville is currently in eighth place in the large-size community category, according to Salazar-Collier.

She said that regardless of whether or not you

# Here come the royals



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

UTRGV students Yazmin Sanchez and Elsa Torres pose for a photo with a selfie stick during the Tip-Off Party Feb. 20, 2017, on the Brownsville campus. The Tip-Off Party kicked off the UTRGV Homecoming Week on both campuses.

**Nubia Reyna**  
THE RIDER

Starting this Friday, Student Activities will host its annual Homecoming Week through Feb. 22 on both campuses, which includes activities such as window painting, a competition for royal candidates, parties with free food, pregame rallies and athletic games.

Homecoming Week is organized by a committee that consists of members from Athletics, the Student Union, UREC, Student Involvement and the Campus Programming Board.

“We started planning [Homecoming Week] about two weeks after Madness [last November],” said Janet Peña, a program adviser for Student Activities.

The celebration will kick off with window painting and decorating this Friday on both campuses.

“And then on Monday is the kickoff of Homecoming. So, people

can get to vote on it. They have a photo competition on [the royal candidates],” Peña said.

One of the main events of the celebration is the nomination of and competition for UTRGV Royals.

“To be a UTRGV Royal, you just have to submit an application through our V Link and the requirements are to have at least a 2.8 GPA, [and] attend most of the sessions to get an interview,” Peña said. “Once they submit their application, it’s going to be reviewed by a Homecoming committee. They decide the final candidates and they get to start campaigning. They need at least 12 hours of undergrad. If they’re grad school, at least the minimum hours. Also ... submit three recommendation letters from professors or advisers or organizations that they’re involved that show that they embody a UTRGV student and they can’t be a

Homecoming Royal from previous years.”

Deadline to apply for Homecoming Royal is Wednesday.

“They’ll have a great experience,” Peña said. “It’s getting that college experience with other college students and getting to meet each other also.”

Daniel Ruiz, president of the Campus Programming Board, said this celebration will make students be more involved with their alma mater.

“When it comes to Homecoming, it’s just making sure students have that ownership of the university, feel the pride of their alma mater and showcase that pride,” Ruiz said.

As of press time, no official calendar of events had been posted.

All events are free.

For more information and special accommodations, call Student Involvement at 665-2660.

# Cyber assistance

## New online counseling program for campus community

**Gabriel Galvan**  
THE RIDER

Last fall, UTRGV started using a counseling tool called Therapy Assisted Online [TAO], which is supposed to increase the accessibility and effectiveness of therapy for users, such as students and faculty.

Christopher Albert, the director of Counseling and Psychological Services, said TAO is used in two ways to help those who are looking for assistance.

“One is a hybrid model, meaning that when a student comes into our center, and they’re seeing a counselor face to face, they can also use TAO as part of their therapy,” Albert said. “It gets the students more engaged in the process of therapy and it allows counselors to see more students.”

The online program can also be used for self-guided counseling with educational modules that include practice tools and interactive activities.

“The advantage of using the self-help modules is that you can use them anytime, any day and you don’t need to come into the center,” Albert said.

This works for students who cannot visit the Counseling Center for various reasons.

TAO is not used for every student who may need



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Christopher Albert, director of UTRGV’s Counseling and Psychological Services, explains the newly launched Therapy Assisted Online self-help online program, which aids students in managing their mental health by providing educational modules that include practice tools and interactive activities.

counseling.

“It’s kind of a matching thing,” he said. “We ask the student if this is something they would be comfortable doing and if they’re not, we’re not going to use it.”

He said the online program can be used with students who struggle with depression, anxiety and substance-abuse issues.

Leah Ellis, the supervising clinical therapist based on the Brownsville campus, uses TAO with her students.

She said the online program generates assessments for students, which makes treatment more accessible.

“The assessments which we can talk about change over time, and how [the students] are progressing,” Ellis said.

TAO is accessible to all students and staff.

For more information, visit [thepath.taoconnect.org](http://thepath.taoconnect.org). Users may log in with their UTRGV credentials. The website is also mobile friendly.



## VAQUERO VOICE

### Valentine's Day Message



*"Esto es para todos mis amigos. En este 14 de febrero, quiero darles las gracias por estar en mi vida, por ser parte de vida. Les deseo lo mejor, que Dios los bendiga y gracias".*

**Abraham Benavides**  
Estudiante de tercer año de enfermería



*"To my best friend, happy Valentine's Day. It's also the day of friendship."*

**Valeria Jaime**  
Mass communication freshman



*"First of all, happy Valentine's Day to my friends. Second of all, it's all about self-love and that's all of it. No crush, uh-uh. No crush. That's all."*

**Estefania Teran**  
Brownsville Early College High School junior



*"Not really. Besides, my friends who already know me, I love you, guys. Big hug to everyone. That's about it, I guess. My mom, if she's watching this, I love you, Mom. I don't really have a message for Valentine's Day. It's just another day. I hope to eat a lot of candy and chocolate. I love chocolate."*

**Francisco Llamas**  
Physics senior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

*Like*  
2/12/18

THE MOMENT WHEN THE PRESIDENT FINDS OUT THE MEMO WAS A LIE\* AND WAS A "NOTHING SANDWICH"



\*the cake is a lie

## Treat yo'self



**Steven Hughes**  
THE RIDER

Ah, yes, love is in the air. Happy couples everywhere. Gross, right? I'm joking, but it can get excessive.

No matter where you look, you'll see couples being romantic. You start to feel sad and left out, but don't pity yourself. It's Valentine's Day, treat yo'self.

Go out alone and do things that make you happy.

I know. Shocking, isn't it? People may argue that it'll be weird to go out alone, but it's more fun to do stuff alone. Why? Well, you don't have the stress of having a good time with another person.

Here are some tips to have a lovely evening alone while you're going out:

--Go to a fancy/cheap restaurant. There are no expectations.

--Watch a movie. Romantic or not, your choice.

--Take a stroll down your favorite park.

--If a carnival is near you, go there.

Who knows? Maybe, you'll meet someone.

However, for some introverts, it's harder to go outside and enjoy it.

I personally like to be inside painting or watching YouTube videos. I become a hermit, basically, but it makes me happy.

Here are some tips to have a lovely evening alone and you

don't want to go out:

--Watch a lot of YouTube videos on anything.

--Jam to your favorite music artists.

--Eat junk or healthy food.

--Apply facial masks.

--Wear baggy clothing and lounge around.

The list goes on.

This is what you should take from this: Own your happiness.

This is Valentine's Day, do what you love.

If you have a significant other, tell that person you appreciate him/her and have a lovely evening.

Also, I can't stress this enough, if you and your partner are going to get hot and heavy, wrap it up. Be safe and smart.



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## Have a story idea?

Let us know at  
**882-5143 or 665-2541**

## 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](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu). All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published.*

*Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.*

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# UTRGV, primer lugar en reto estatal de salud

**Eric Montoya**

EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Actualmente, UTRGV se encuentra en el primer lugar en la categoría de universidad grande del reto *It's Time Texas Community Challenge*, con más de 100 participantes.

El reto comunitario empezó el 8 de enero. Está siendo patrocinado por H-E-B y organizado por la organización sin fines de lucro, *It's Time Texas*.

La organización de nivel estatal se concentra en “mejorar dramáticamente el ámbito de salud y bienestar de Texas”, de acuerdo con [www.itstimetexas.org](http://www.itstimetexas.org).

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Cindy Salazar-Collier, coordinadora regional del Valle del Río Grande de *It's Time Texas*, dijo que el reto “es una competencia a nivel estatal entre todas las comunidades, distritos escolares y universidades del estado para ver cuál puede tomar parte en la mayor cantidad de acciones saludables”.

“El propósito de este reto es promover el involucramiento en la salud y el cambio de la cultura de la salud entre las comunidades del estado de Texas”, Salazar-Collier dijo. “No somos una competencia para la pérdida de peso. ... El reto comunitario es realmente solo para promover el involucramiento en la salud y para alentar a la gente a adoptar un estilo de vida saludable”.

Más de 70 universidades de Texas están registradas en el reto, de acuerdo con Salazar-Collier.

Ella dijo que UTRGV está en el primer lugar de la categoría de universidad grande con más de 100 participantes, dándole 83,900 puntos a la universidad.

“Ustedes están ganando en la categoría de universidad grande por más de 40,000 puntos, con Texas Tech en

segundo lugar”, dijo Salazar-Collier. “En el Valle del Río Grande en general, tenemos más de 2,000 individuos que se han registrado para el reto comunitario”.

Asistente regional de *It's Time Texas*, Ralf Lopez, dijo que las categorías están organizadas por población.

“Es ciudad contra ciudad, como, Brownsville competiría contra una ciudad del mismo tamaño. UTRGV competiría en contra de una universidad del mismo tamaño”, dijo Lopez.

Él dijo que las comunidades, universidades o distritos escolares con la mayor cantidad de puntos ganarán. Dijo que una de las formas en que los participantes pueden acumular puntos es tomando fotos de ellos mismos realizando actividades saludables.

“Estás tomando un vaso de agua. Te tomas una selfie y la cargas a nuestro sitio web, y recibes puntos por eso”, dijo Lopez. “Puedes poner cuanto peso has perdido, cuanto ejercicio has hecho. Si tienes un Fitbit o un [Apple] Watch o algo así, lo puedes enlazar a nuestra página de internet y esta monitoreará tu actividad por ti”.

Él dijo que los directores o superintendentes pueden firmar juramentos y cargar una foto del juramento para ganar puntos para el reto comunitario.

Salazar-Collier dijo que la gente tiene la opción de designar sus puntos a ya sea una universidad o a un distrito escolar, además de otorgar los puntos a sus comunidades.

“[Tú] te registras como de Brownsville y entonces te preguntará si quieres designar tus puntos a un distrito escolar o a una universidad”, ella dijo. “Si los estudiantes se registran, también pueden asignar los puntos de esta manera. Básicamente, cualquiera en la comunidad que guste dar sus puntos a UTRGV lo puede



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

UTRGV se encuentra en primer lugar en la categoría de universidad grande con más de 100 participantes, dándole a la universidad 83,900 puntos. Más de 70 universidades de Texas están registradas en el reto comunitario. Los participantes pueden acumular puntos involucrándose en actividades saludables y después cargando una foto de dicha actividad al sitio web de *It's Time Texas*.

hacer”.

Actualmente, Brownsville está en el octavo lugar en la categoría de comunidad grande, de acuerdo con Salazar-Collier.

Ella dijo que sin importar si decides o no asignar tus puntos a una universidad o distrito escolar, todos los puntos irán para tu comunidad.

“La parte interesante del reto comunitario es que es un esfuerzo de toda la comunidad”, dijo Salazar-Collier. “Podrían ser egresados que hagan esto. Podrían ser amigos y familia de estudiantes de UTRGV actuales. Podrían ser los mismos estudiantes de UTRGV, facultad, personal, todos estos individuos pueden contribuir a que UTRGV quede en primer lugar en su categoría”.

*It's Time Texas* reconocerá a los ganadores de cada categoría. Los distritos escolares y universidades ganadoras serán premiadas también, con

becas, de acuerdo con Salazar-Collier.

Lopez dijo que también habrá premios semanales.

“Cada semana, hay un sorteo de premios como membresías de gimnasio o hasta Fitbits”, él dijo. “Hay bastantes premios bueno. La gente no se debería de desanimar diciendo, ‘Oh, ya empezaron el mes pasado. Ya no voy a ganar nada’. No, si te registras, y haces lo del acceso y los puntos, puedes ganar varios premios buenos”.

Para registrarse para el reto, visita [www.itcommunitychallenge.com](http://www.itcommunitychallenge.com).

“Haz clic en el botón de registración”, dijo Lopez. “Te toma dos o tres minutos. Todo lo que necesitas es un correo electrónico y crear una nueva contraseña”.

Cualquiera mayor de 14 años puede unirse al reto. Las registraciones para el *It's Time Texas Community Challenge* todavía están abiertas,

de acuerdo con Lopez.

Salazar-Collier dijo que el reto es importante porque ayudará a la gente a involucrarse en actividades saludables.

“Muchas de las veces tenemos que ver a otros involucrarse en estas actividades para animarnos los unos a los otros”, ella dijo. “Eso es lo que estamos esperando que pase a través del reto comunitario. No solo que la gente se vuelva ... competitiva por querer ganar, sino que también hagan cambios en sus estilos de vida. Que construyan relaciones con sus amigos, familia y colegas para hacer estos cambios y que estos duren hasta después del reto comunitario”.

El reto terminará el 4 de marzo.

Lopez insta a la gente a registrarse para el reto y los alienta a contactarlo al correo electrónico [ralf@itstimetexas.org](mailto:ralf@itstimetexas.org) para más información.

## ■ Opinión

# EL ESTADO DE NUESTRA UNIÓN ESTÁ ESTRECHAMENTE RELACIONADO CON EL ESTADO DE NUESTRO CLIMA

**Por Mark Reynolds**

El presidente Donald Trump abrió su discurso sobre el Estado de la Unión reconociendo a los socorristas heroicos que acudieron en ayuda de las víctimas en las inundaciones que devastaron Houston y los incendios forestales que envolvieron a California. Es una pena que no mencione lo que hizo que estos desastres naturales fueran tan letales y costosos: el cambio climático.

Los desastres naturales en 2017 produjeron daños récord estimados entre \$300 mil millones a \$400 mil millones. De hecho, 17 eventos separados cuestan a los EE. UU. más de mil millones de dólares cada uno. El clima severo detrás de estos desastres ha empeorado con los años debido al aumento de las temperaturas. Algunos de los desastres más costosos del año pasado incluyen:

--El huracán Harvey, que arrojó más de cuatro pies de lluvia en el área de Houston. Ball State University estima que este desastre costó \$198 mil millones.

--El huracán Irma, una tormenta de Categoría 5 con vientos sostenidos de 185 millas por hora. El daño se estima en \$66 mil millones.

--El huracán María, que devastó a Puerto Rico y causó daños por cerca de \$100 mil millones. Muchos puertorriqueños aún carecen de electricidad y agua potable.

--En California, la lluvia torrencial de principios de año produjo vegetación que se convirtió en leña durante el verano debido al aire seco y caliente (San Francisco alcanzó 106 grados [Fahrenheit]). El resultado: California experimentó su temporada de incendios forestales más destructiva en la historia con \$13 mil millones en daños.

Tanto la Administración Nacional de Asuntos Oceanográficos y Atmosféricos de Estados Unidos (NOAA) como la Administración Nacional de Aeronáutica y del Espacio (NASA) confirmaron que el 2017 fue el año más caluroso sin el fenómeno climático El Niño. A medida que la tendencia del calentamiento global continúa, podemos esperar que tales desastres naturales sean más intensos y más frecuentes, eventualmente superando nuestra capacidad de respuesta y adaptación.

El presidente Trump claramente hace su prioridad responder a las amenazas de seguridad. Según sus propios líderes militares, el cambio climático es un peligro claro y presente. “El cambio climático tiene impacto en la estabilidad de regiones del mundo donde actualmente operan nuestras tropas”, informó el Secretario de Defensa de Trump, James Mattis, al Senado de los Estados Unidos en 2017.

En la Revisión Trimestral de Defensa 2014, el ejército advirtió que el cambio climático es un “multiplicador de amenazas”, lo que agrava problemas como la pobreza,

la inestabilidad política y las tensiones sociales. En nuestras propias costas, el aumento del nivel del mar amenaza nuestras bases militares, desde el astillero naval de Portsmouth en Maine hasta la Fuerza Aérea de Eglin, con base en la península de Florida.

Mientras que la rama ejecutiva sigue siendo obstinadamente ignorante sobre este tema, los legisladores lo ven con ojos más claros. En diciembre, 106 miembros del Congreso enviaron una carta al presidente Trump en la que le pedían que incluyera el cambio climático en la Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos. “Es imperativo que Estados Unidos aborde esta creciente amenaza geopolítica”, afirmó la carta, firmada por republicanos y demócratas por igual.

Y el tambor bipartidista para la acción climática crece con cada mes que pasa. En la Cámara de Representantes, el Caucus de Soluciones Climáticas tuvo 18 miembros al comienzo del 115º Congreso, mitad republicano y mitad demócrata. Desde entonces, sus rangos han aumentado constantemente a 68 miembros mientras mantienen el equilibrio entre los partidos.

“Me di cuenta de que este tema estaba hiperpolitizado y muy polarizado. Y sabíamos que a menos



# Spreading the love

## Nonprofit expresses gratitude to volunteers

**Britney Valdez**

THE RIDER

On Feb. 5, the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville hosted a dinner and ceremony to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of volunteer efforts from the First United Methodist Church of Casper, Wyoming.

The Good Neighbor Settlement House, established in 1953, is a nonprofit agency that provides clothing, meals and basic support services such as a medical clinic, Alcoholic Anonymous meetings and income tax return preparation to those in need.

Located at 1254 E. Tyler St., the organization's volunteers range from a few to several on a daily basis.

The volunteers were presented a plaque from the organization to thank them for traveling to Brownsville for the last 10 years and assisting the staff of the settlement house.

"These individuals from Casper, Wyoming, have served the Good Neighbor Settlement House for 10 years with winning spirits," Board President Abraham Barrientes said. "They have traveled over 22 hours to dedicate their time and energy to our agency. They have contributed to our facility by bringing in donations and, most recently, fixing our garden area, so we can begin to grow herbs and vegetables."

Merritt Benson, one of the volunteers from Wyoming, said he appreciated the effort the organization made to acknowledge the group.

"It's a terrific honor and is very treasured without a doubt," Benson said. "We don't seek recognition, but when it's offered, it's appreciated. It's very kind of them to thank us like that."

He also said the church members enjoy coming to the Rio Grande Valley, despite the sacrifices they have to make.

"It is a commitment because it's not



**Victor G. Ramirez**/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Volunteers from the First United Methodist Church in Casper, Wyoming, traveled to Brownsville for a ceremonial dinner Feb. 5 in honor of their service to the Good Neighbor Settlement House. They are (front row, from left) Lori Johnson, Gale Sleep and Margaret Benson. Back row: Phil Johnson, Jerry Sleep, Gary Becker and Merritt Benson.

only a long way, it's relatively expensive to do this," Benson said. "The point of that is not to say how much it costs; the point is to say there is a commitment to come here. It's not like we can say, 'Hey, I have nothing to do. I'm going to head down there for an hour.'"

He also wants the Brownsville community to recognize the work that the settlement house performs and encourages them to volunteer, too.

"There is a really terrific group of very dedicated hard-working people here

who are trying to make a difference for people who are less fortunate and they need more help from the people who live here, including students," Benson said.

The Good Neighbor Settlement House is constantly seeking new volunteers, said Interim Executive Director Jack White.

"We operate this place with four paid staff [members]," White said. "We have four executive volunteers who are, essentially, full time and the rest of them are volunteers. Most of them are court-mandated. Many of our volunteers are a hair's breadth away from being clients as well."

Jimena Rivera and Jessika Vazquez are interns who attend UTRGV.

Rivera, a social work senior, said interning with the organization helped her realize the importance of simply communicating with those in need.

"I used to think that [when] I'd come and volunteer here, I would serve in the kitchen, help with the gardening, but I think what really helped the clients most would be people who

are willing to take time to see [them], who come here and hear them out, because a need that is being neglected is the communication," she said. "We see them on the street and we don't connect that until they're here."

Vazquez, a social work graduate student, said she appreciates the experience that volunteering with the organization has given her.

"Every day is something new," she said. "It's amazing to be a volunteer here. I haven't volunteered long, but it feels, like, they're my family. I already know both the staff, the volunteers and the people we serve."

The staff and volunteers of the Good Neighbor Settlement House aim to help the disadvantaged population of Brownsville and is seeking additional help to do so.

"Everybody here in Brownsville knows about 'The Good Neighbor,' but they think we are sponsored by the City of Brownsville or someone else and that's not true. We rely on individuals to donate time, money or anything they can," Barrientes said.



Merritt Benson (from left), Good Neighbor Settlement House Board President Abraham Barrientes, Board Member Tony Zavaleta and Jack White, interim executive director, are shown at the plaque presentation. The plaque is a symbol of appreciation for the service by the First United Methodist Church of Casper, Wyoming, to the Brownsville community.

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**PONCE MEDICAL**



# WORST DATES!

*Continued from Page 1*

unlock the car, and it was raining the whole time. It was pretty bad.”

Similar to Damken, electrical engineering senior Christian Garcia found himself with keys in the ignition but no tires, and an angry father.

“It was me, and at the time, my ex-girlfriend, and I went to go pick her up, but this was when we first met each other,” Garcia said. “I went to go pick her up. We went to go eat. Everything was fine, and as I was driving home, both my back tires blew out. I was a freshman, sophomore, and I didn’t really know how to change tires at the time.

“So, her parents didn’t know we were on a date, and I live in Brownsville. I came to pick her up all the way in

of your mouth.

Computer science graduate student Andrew Chen knows exactly how that feels.

“I went to Santa Fe Steakhouse. It was Valentine’s Day, actually,” Chen said. “It was a while back, like four years back. I think, I may have called my date, I may have said something suggestive. I ended up calling her a little bit fat?”

“I didn’t, it came off that way. I don’t know. It was, like, as a joke, but she ended up being mad at me for the rest of the date. It wasn’t until she saw the check that she lightened up a little bit. It was a very expensive date.”

Speaking of paying for the date, what is the rule there?



Computer science graduate student Andrew Chen

McAllen. It was either call my parents all the way from Brownsville, or call her parents. We ended up calling her dad, and he came. He got really mad at me, and instead of helping me out, he just picked her up and left. I had to figure out my own way.”

There’s nothing like an angry dad, and being stranded on the highway alone to push you into survival mode.

Management senior Dahlia Garcia claimed her worst date was with her ex-boyfriend, who seemed to always be mysteriously missing money.

“He would always ‘somehow’ forget his wallet, or always be ‘somehow’ broke,” Garcia said. “I would end up having to pay. So, now we’re over, and that’s it.”

Yikes, sorry Garcia, but on a positive note, it’s better than almost dying in front of your date due to your own mistake of forgetting a floatie.

Finance sophomore Daniel Navarro forgot an essential item on his date at Schlitterbahn that led to some seriously weird moments.

“I went to Schlitterbahn once with this girl. We went into that new indoor part of it,” Navarro said. “I went in without a tube. I ended up trying to resurface, but I kept hitting a woman’s butt, so she was blocking me. That was one awkward moment from that date, and then another time, I went in, I got stuck underneath a group of people in floaties and I almost choked myself to death.”

The lesson to be learned? Floatie first, folks.

Kinesiology freshman Kadar Rios’ worst date was a “Grease” moment gone bad.

“Back in high school, my junior year, we went to the WesMer Drive-in Theater in Mercedes, and it was dark,” Rios said. “S--- got intimate. Next thing you know, we got caught by a family that was driving in. We got kicked out of the theater.”

Ah, young love.

What isn’t so romantically comical, though, is when you start to ramble on your date and all of a sudden you don’t even know what words are coming out

Is it 50/50? Do you split the check? Does he pay? Does she pay? In 2018, what’s the protocol for who is getting the check?

Biology sophomore Arnelle Canalez went into her date with the traditional mindset.

“First of all, I didn’t know if he was going to pay for my food or not, but I didn’t have money with me. But since we were going on a date, I was expecting that he was going to pay for my food,” Canalez said. “But, then he ended up not paying for my food, but I made him pay for my food, so that, too, he kept throwing in my face.

“I was like, ‘No. I want to go.’ I literally went to the restroom, not to use the restroom, but I was, like, ‘Who could I call to pick me up?’ I wanted to leave!”

In the ’70s, it was definitely convention for the male to pay for a date.

Theatre Associate Professor David Carren would agree with you on the rules of convention at the time.

“When I went out on a date with this young lady, I took her to, I was a member of the Writers Guild screenings where we went to see a movie for free,” Carren said. “So, I could afford the movie because it was the Writers Guild Theater and it was free. Then, we went to this restaurant afterwards, and I should’ve warned her I was broke. I literally had no money.

“I had nothing. She ordered a meal, and she said, ‘Aren’t you ordering?’ and I said, ‘No, I don’t have any money.’ ‘Well, how are you going to pay for mine?’ ‘Well, I don’t know, I don’t have any money.’ [Laughs] So, she stalked out of the place, and got in her car. I had to stand behind the car to keep her from driving away because my jacket was in the car. She threw the jacket out of the window at me, and then drove away without running me over.”

Talk about a nightmare.

Have you ever had one of those? A hellish date? Assistant Professor Marisa Palacios Knox has.

“My worst date was with a man who tried to get me to take LSD, because



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies Associate Professor Marci McMahon

he said it would allow me to contact my dead mother. And that was my worst date,” said Knox, who teaches in the Literatures and Cultural Studies department. “I did not take the LSD.”

Lastly, there’s the forced date.

You know which one I’m talking about. The one you go on because you either want to “give it a chance,” or because your friend set it up.

In Associate Professor Marci McMahon’s case, her forced date was with her best friend’s boyfriend.

“All right, so one of my worst dates was going to prom with my best friend’s boyfriend, because she wanted him to go to prom but she couldn’t go for whatever reason. I don’t remember,” said McMahon, who also teaches in the Literatures and Cultural Studies department. “I think her mom got sick and she had to take care of her mother and go out of town. So, I was the designated ‘loyal friend’ that could go

to prom with her boyfriend. This was at Holy Cross Catholic High School in San Antonio; he was a student at Holy Cross Catholic High School.

“So, we went to prom. It was really awkward. I barely knew him. We went to the Olive Garden. We had a really awkward conversation. He asked me what insect I thought he looked like, and I don’t remember what I answered but he said I looked like a cricket!”

Dates are a mess, guys, but glass half full, life wouldn’t be the same without those awkward, confusing, messy and painful times.



Management senior Dahlia Garcia





**Robert Benavidez Jr.**

## THE RIDER

In many end-game situations, players will find themselves with a king and one extra piece against the opponent's king. Many pieces cannot accomplish a checkmate in this situation.

The pieces that can achieve a checkmate in these types of end-game situations are a queen and a rook. A checkmate cannot occur with a bishop or knight.

# CHES 101

***Fifth in a series***

The first step in moving the opponent's king to the edge of the board is to cut off some of the king's movements and place him in an imaginary square made up by the rook.

In the event that the opponent's king attacks the rook, players should move their king to a legal adjacent square next to their rook and toward the opponent's piece.

**Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER**

In chess, players can win a game with only one rook and their king. To accomplish this, players must trap an opponent's king in any of the bordering rows while strategically maneuvering their pieces for a checkmate.

At this point, an opponent's king is forced to make a move away from the rook.

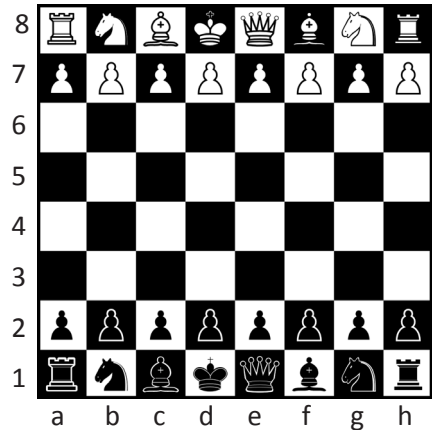
Depending on where an opponent's king moves, players must move their rook or king toward the opponent's piece, keeping their rook and king adjacent at all times.

For the next series of moves, the king and the rook will slowly move and work to limit the opponent's movements until the opponent's king is in the final row.

A good strategy to follow when the opponent's king is in the final row is to have a player's king two rows away from the opponent's king and the rook on the row in between them. The rook no longer has to make an imaginary square at this point and may be moved on any square along the row between the kings.

Using this strategy, a player's king on the third row will move until their opponent makes a move that will leave the opposing king parallel to the king on the third row.

Once the player gets to this point, move the rook to the same row where an opponent's king is at; this places the opponent's king in checkmate.



# Correction

*In the Jan. 29 issue  
of The Rider,  
the chessboard graphic  
on Page 8 was  
incorrect. Above is a  
corrected version.*



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# Office romance

## How this couple works together and at home

**Zugay Treviño**  
THE RIDER

Armando Montes, vice principal of UTRGV’s Mathematics and Science Academy, and Melissa Peña-Montes, the school’s program coordinator, are happily married and have one child, and work together.

The two met at work, where they happened to be teachers across from each other. Peña-Montes accepted her first job at the same IDEA school where Montes also taught.

“He was very stern, very straightforward with the kids,” Peña-Montes said.

Montes also found Peña-Montes was similar to him. He said most new teachers would cry or break down, but she never did that.

“I was very surprised. She was very stern as well,” Montes said.

The two also got to know each other through after-school sports. Montes was a basketball coach, while Peña-Montes became in charge of the spirit team. The two eventually started going to basketball games together and hung out afterward.

The two dated for two years before they married. For their proposal, Peña-Montes thought they were going to a barbecue for her dad’s 50th birthday. Everyone else there already knew there would be a proposal.

A photographer had been hired for the occasion, and Peña-Montes was asked to remain at a spot and be photographed with many different family members. She was not allowed to look at the photos and was unaware the rest of her family was holding up signs that read, “Will you marry me?”

Once the message was complete, she was allowed to look at the photos.

“I looked into the camera and he showed me the ones, where in the back, you could see everyone with the little boards,” Peña-Montes said.

The two wed on July 11, 2015. They not only see each other at home but also at work.



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Melissa Peña-Montes, UTRGV’s Mathematics and Science Academy program coordinator, and Vice Principal Armando Montes have been married for almost three years, after a two-year courtship that began when both were teaching in a high school.

“We have a motto,” Montes said. “Keep it professional at work. People sometimes don’t know that we’re married, just because we always refer to each other by last name.”

At work, their students know to call them Mr. and Mrs. Montes. Montes said any issues outside of work will remain outside of work. The couple said being respectful and listening to each other before speaking is an important quality of their relationship.

Outside of work, they have visited many places together, including Playa del Carmen at Cancún, which Montes said he still talks about to this day, and they hope to re-visit Disney World this

summer with their son, Hayward, who will turn 2 next month.

“Even though we visited [together before], we want to go back just to be able to experience that with our son,” Montes-Peña said.

Besides their son, they also have a pet Shih Tzu named Copper.

“My son and him share a brotherly bond,” Peña-Montes said.

The couple share other interests outside of work and their family.

“Education is a major one, especially since him being a veteran, I was able to use part of his benefits to be able to go back and obtain my master’s,” she said. “... Now, I’m done with my

master’s, and he’s working on his second master’s. ... [We] want to do better, especially for our son.”

The couple still give each other gifts. Asked about one of the sweetest things the other person has done, Peña-Montes said her husband decided to surprise her with a gift on Christmas. During December, she hoped to buy concert tickets to see the Backstreet Boys, a group she loved during the ’90s.

“For Christmas, he bought me Backstreet Boys tickets for Las Vegas,” Peña-Montes said.

# Club Spotlight



COURTESY PHOTO

Clarion Broken Reed Clarinet Club members include (from left) Jasmine Leija, Krista Ruppert, Anthony Guevara, President and Student Adviser Tiffany Nerio, Lezly Uribe, Autumn Garcia, Secretary Amber Vela, Vice President Kornel Juhasz and Christopher Childress.

**Name:** Clarion Broken Reed Clarinet Club

**Purpose:** To make music and to raise funds for travel to music festivals, and reach out to students in local middle and high schools.

**President and Student Adviser:** Tiffany Nerio

**Vice President:** Kornel Juhasz

**Secretary:** Amber Vela

**Treasurer:** Alejandra Velasquez

**Adviser:** Music Associate Professor Jonathan Guist

**Activities:** The organization has volunteered at events such as Sombrero Fest and Trunk or Treat. Members have performed in clarinet festivals in Kansas, Louisiana, Texas Music Education Association and the International Clarinet Association.

**Membership requirements:** At least four years of experience or an audition conducted by Guist.

**For more information, email:** jonathan.guist@utrgv.edu or tiffany.nerio01@utrgv.edu.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

***Want your club featured? Email us at  
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882-5143 in Brownsville!***



# Rolling to a stop?

## Department considers crosswalk overhaul and bike ban on Bronc Trail

Reprinted from [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)

**Gabriel Galvan**  
THE RIDER

The university is considering removing some crosswalks, and banning skateboards and bicycles from pedestrian walkways to improve safety on school grounds, a campus official has told the Student Government Association.

Richard Costello, director of Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management, addressed the SGA on “pedestrian-related issues” during last Friday’s meeting.

“What we have when we look at the incidents of pedestrian-related issues on our campus, vehicle accidents involving pedestrians or bicycles, we have a higher number of incidents per capita,” Costello said during last Friday’s meeting.

He said the university is conducting an in-depth analysis to figure out the exact number of incidents.

Costello also said there are two issues that the department is focused on regarding pedestrian safety, being both the size and adequacy of the crosswalks, and that students tend not to pay attention when they walk.

“The worst-case scenario, obviously, is someone with an earphone and a phone,” he said.

The director said the department was considering removing the crosswalks from West Kuhn Street through Sugar, and the crosswalk that connects the campus to Stripes off University Drive, while improving the other crosswalks on Sugar. Costello said this will improve student safety.

He said the department is going to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the best way to change the crosswalks to ensure safety.

“The problem is that if we look at Sugar Road, and we funnel the traffic in one direction, it affects the rest of campus,” Costello said.

Marketing campaigns will remind students to pay attention when they



Gabriel Galvan/THE RIDER

The crosswalk at Sugar Road and West Kuhn Street will be removed by next fall due to pedestrian-safety concerns. Instead, students will use the crosswalk at University Drive or Unity Hall.

walk on crosswalks, he said.

In addition, Costello said there is also a policy that is under review by the school attorneys that would ban non-motorized devices, such as skateboards and bicycles on the pedestrian walkways, such as the Bronc Trail on the Edinburg campus and the Lozano-Banco bridge on the Brownsville campus.

This would be a return to the policy that was implemented in legacy institution UT Pan American back in 2011.

It is not known when the attorneys will finish their review of this policy;

however, Costello said the campus community will begin to see a transition into this policy beginning in Summer Session I.

“I anticipate that we’ll see a solid implementation of the program by next September,” he said.

SGA Vice President Peter Averack said the organization will work together with the department on this issue.

In the same meeting, two students addressed the senate:

--Oscar Hernandez, vice president of the UTRGV American Society of Civil Engineers, said the school needs more labs, equipment and space for civil

engineering students.

--Patrick Roberts, president of the UTRGV Student Veterans of America, said the university should adopt a “College Credit for Heroes” program, which will allow the school to award credits to veterans who have done the equivalent of their coursework during their service.

SGA meetings are held at 2 p.m. every Friday. The location will be announced later.

For more information, email [sga@utrgv.edu](mailto:sga@utrgv.edu).

### TIME

*Continued from Page 3*

choose to designate your points to a university or school district, all of the points go to your community.

“The interesting part of the community challenge is that it is a communitywide effort,” Salazar-Collier said. “It could be alumni that are doing this. It could be friends and family of current UTRGV students. It could be UTRGV students themselves, faculty, staff, all of these individuals can attribute to UTRGV coming in first in its category.”

It’s Time Texas will recognize the winners of each category. Winning school districts and universities will be awarded, as well, with grants, according to Salazar-Collier.

Lopez said there are also weekly prizes.

“Every week, there is a drawing for prizes such as gym memberships or even Fitbits,” he said. “There is a lot of good prizes. People should not be discouraged by saying, ‘Oh, they already started last month. I am not going to win anything.’ No. If you sign up, you do the log in and the points, you can win some nice prizes.”

To register for the challenge, visit [www.ittcommunitychallenge.com](http://www.ittcommunitychallenge.com).

“Click the register button,” Lopez said. “It takes two to three minutes. All you need is an email and create a new password.”

Anyone over age 14 can join the challenge. Registrations for the It’s

Time Texas Community Challenge are still open, according to Lopez.

Salazar-Collier said the challenge is important because this will help more people be engaged in healthy activities.

“A lot of times we need to see each other engage in these actions to encourage one another,” she said. “That is what we are hoping happens through the community challenge. Not that only people get ... competitive because people want to win, but that they make lifestyle changes. That they build relationships with their friends, family [and] peers to make these changes and that these changes carry on after the community challenge.”

The challenge will end on March 4.

Lopez urges people to register for the challenge and encourages people to contact him at [ralf@itttimetexas.org](mailto:ralf@itttimetexas.org) for more information.

### CLIMA

*Continúa de Página 5*

que trabajáramos para cambiar eso, para eliminar la política del problema ... sería muy difícil tener una conversación racional sobre lo que está sucediendo y responder adecuadamente”, dijo el colíder del Caucus, el Representante Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla).

¿Qué podemos hacer al respecto?

Una solución que encuentra el apoyo de conservadores y liberales por igual es un enfoque conocido como los Dividendos Energéticos o *Carbon Fee and Dividend*. Esta política impondría una tarifa a todo el petróleo, el gas y el carbón que usemos en los Estados Unidos. Eso haría que la energía limpia sea más barata y más atractiva que la energía sucia y contaminante. El dinero recaudado se devolverá a los estadounidenses en

forma de un reembolso mensual. En 20 años, los dividendos energéticos reducirían nuestras emisiones de CO2 un 50 por ciento debajo de los niveles de 1990. Además, crearía empleos y pondría dinero en los bolsillos de los trabajadores estadounidenses, para que las personas puedan adaptarse y prosperar.

A pesar de la omisión del presidente, es obvio que el estado de nuestra unión está estrechamente relacionado con el estado de nuestro clima, y es alentador ver que los republicanos y demócratas en el Congreso entienden los riesgos que enfrenta nuestra nación por no actuar. Cuando el Congreso presente y apruebe una legislación climática bipartidista, el estado de nuestra unión será innegablemente más fuerte.

--Mark Reynolds es el Director Ejecutivo de Ciudadanos por un Clima Vivible (Citizens’ Climate Lobby)

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# The ball doesn't fall far from the hoop

## UTRGV players speak about pro parents' influence

**Albert Monrroy**  
THE RIDER

Xavier McDaniel Jr. and Jordan Jackson have a lot in common. They both play for UTRGV as guards, they started playing ball at a young age, they want to make a name for themselves and they are the sons of two professional basketball players.

McDaniel Jr.'s father is Xavier "X-Man" McDaniel, an NBA All-Star who played with many teams, including the Seattle Supersonics, Boston Celtics and Phoenix Suns, from 1985 to 1998 and is enshrined in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

Jackson is the son of Sheryl Swoopes, a four-time WNBA champion, six-time WNBA All-Star, Olympic gold medalist and Women's Basketball Hall of Fame inductee. She played from 1997 to 2011 and is now an assistant coach at Texas Tech University.

McDaniel Jr. is a sophomore who has played in 55 games throughout his UTRGV career and is scoring an average of 10.6 points per game in this season, so far. He said the biggest

challenge for him this season is playing consistently.

"There are sometimes where I'll get a double-double or something and then there's some days I'll get one rebound, six points, so I have to find a good middle ground for myself and be able to do that on a nightly basis," McDaniel Jr. said.

Jackson is a junior scoring an average of 8.0 points per game in five games played. He has been out of action with a groin injury since last semester. This is his first season playing for the Vaqueros and he said his main reason for coming to the school was the coaching staff.

"Coach [Lew] Hill and the coaching staff here is so genuine," Jackson said. "Coming from Texas Tech to junior college to here, I just feel like this is a very family oriented place and looking at the past history of the basketball program here, I wanted to come somewhere where I could be the start of something new and be able to leave my own legacy somewhere and be able to contribute to a team that can start something new, something fresh."



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER

Xavier McDaniel Jr.

Their passion for basketball did not start at UTRGV. McDaniel Jr. and Jackson said they began playing basketball early in their lives.

"I started playing basketball at a very young age, when I was probably about 3 or 4," Jackson said. "I was in the living room with the little Nerf hoops and the Little Tikes basketball goals and all that. Ever since then, I just loved the game and playing it."

McDaniel Jr. also started playing around age 3 and said his father played a big part in why he is pursuing basketball today.

"It was probably just all those days with my dad when I was younger," he said. "We would go to the gym. We had the little plastic goal, the little 6-foot goal that I used to play on in the house."

With McDaniel's experience in the NBA, and Swoopes' experience in the WNBA, McDaniel Jr. and Jackson have trained with their parents, received advice and pointers from them on how to improve while developing their skills and working on their own legacies.

The Rider asked McDaniel Jr. and

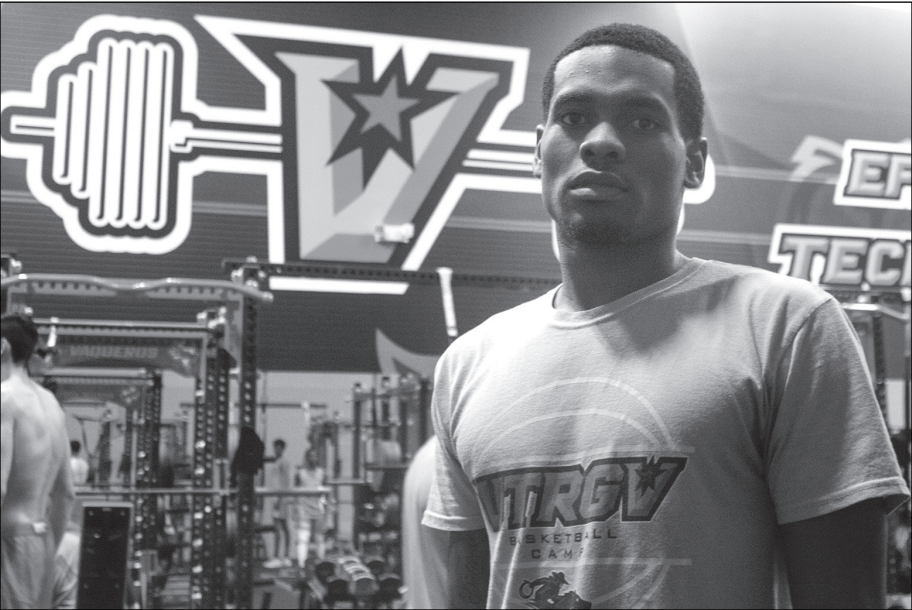
Jackson what they would like to be remembered as.

McDaniel Jr.: "Someone who just gave it all on the court. Someone who just, every time he stepped on the court, gave it his all. You can never say that he didn't play hard that game."

Jackson: "As an honest person. That he was honest to himself, just as a basketball player, just that he put his heart into the game, no matter what. He faced adversity, he found a program that fit him well, he found a head coach that believes in him, assistant coaches that believe in him, that put him in a position to succeed and he brought forth his maximum effort and he put everything he had into the game of basketball."

UTRGV men's basketball will travel to Washington to take on Seattle University at 9 p.m. Thursday and to Orem, Utah, to face the Utah Valley University Wolverines at 8 p.m. Saturday. Games can be viewed on the WAC Digital Network at wacsports.com.

--Joahana Segundo and Gabriel Galvan contributed to this report.



Gabriel Galvan/THE RIDER

Jordan Jackson



Junior Dominique Ibarra, a transfer student from Barcelona, Spain, is in her third year with the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team.

**If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?** "A cat. I have two cats. They look really friendly in their normal environment, but whenever they have to fight or defend their territory, they are like a tiger. They transform into something with attitude. You have both sides, the kindness and the toughness."

**What show or series are you currently into?** "I watch 'Riverdale.' It's like a teen show. It's like mysterious and it's really interesting."

**Who is your personal hero and why?** "Mostly, my family. They are my like my big unit. They are the ones that support me and make me do things that I would not be able to do by myself."

**Who makes you laugh the most on the team?** "That's really easy, Anastasia [Belyaeva]. She's the funniest girl in the world. She makes the team be fun and happy. Without her, it would be too serious."

**What is the best advice you've received recently?** "If you have the opportunity, just go for it. Don't wait, just do it. Because, you never know, it could go well or not, but at least you tried. You

will not regret it."

**In your off time, what do you like to do?** "I like painting and drawing while I'm listening to music. That's really relaxing."

**If you had one superpower, what would it be and why?** "I would like to read minds, [to] know what people think, just because I want to understand them. I feel, like, everything would be easy if people would just [say what they thought]."

**If you weren't playing tennis, what sport would you be playing?** "I think gymnastics. I'm super flexible. My physical coach from Spain always told me that I should do gymnastics."

**You can have one meal with one celebrity, who would you be eating with?** "I would like to have a meal with [Roger] Federer. I want to know his experience, his knowledge, everything. Not why he's so good, but the tough parts. You see players that are so good, but you don't see the effort and the hard work they did behind that. I would love to learn ... the process of everything."

--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan





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