

THE RIDER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM

VOL. 3, ISSUE 20



SPORTS



Edinburg sisters play together at UTRGV

Page 9

ESPAÑOL



Charreada anual tomará lugar esta semana

Página 5

A & E



"In the Heights" premieres Feb. 28

Page 7

OPINION

Vaquero Voice: Homecoming and Charro Days

Page 8



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

The Music, Science and Learning Center (top) on the Brownsville campus and the new Science Building (bottom) on the Edinburg campus are scheduled to be completed by the end of March and available to use in Fall 2018.

TWO BUILDINGS TO OPEN IN FALL 2018

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since its establishment in 2015, UTRGV has aimed at expanding its campuses and teaching sites across the Rio Grande Valley to serve the needs of its community, including two new buildings opening in Fall 2018.

The new Science Building on the Edinburg campus and the Music, Science and Learning Center (BMSLC) on the Brownsville campus are scheduled to be completed by the end of March and available for use in the next school year.

After construction is completed, Marta Salinas-



Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER

Hovar, the associate vice president for Facilities Planning and Operations, said

the next phase will involve moving in furniture.

See **CONSTRUCTION**, Page 2



Keeping the tradition

UTRGV, TSC to host 2018 Charreada as part of Charro Days

Eric Montoya
SPANISH EDITOR

Once again, the city of Brownsville is getting ready for Charro Days and UTRGV is part of the celebration.

At noon Thursday, the Mr. Amigo presentation will take place at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center.

The welcoming event is organized in collaboration with UTRGV, TSC and the Mr. Amigo Association.

This year, Mr. Amigo 2017 will be the famous Mexican singer, songwriter, actor and television host, Pedro Fernández.

Sergio Martinez, president of the nonprofit Mr. Amigo Association, said that during the last 54 years, the organization has recognized "an iconic individual from the country of Mexico [who] promotes brotherhood, camaraderie, spirit and essence of Mexico."

"We have selected famous Mr. Amigos in the past, including Vicente Fernández, Juan Gabriel, Cantinflas, to more recently, Eduardo Yáñez, Itatí Cantoral, and this year, it is going to be Pedro Fernández," Martinez said. "The purpose of the Mr. Amigo is to promote the culture along the border,

See **CHARREADA**, Page 4



Safety trainings for active shooter events

Florida incident reignites gun-control debate

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UTRGV campus community members who want to learn how to respond to situations, such as the recent Florida shooting, may attend a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event training (CRASE) on Thursday.

University Police will host the CRASE training from 9 to 11 a.m. in Student Union 2.406 on the Edinburg campus.

UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia told *The Rider* the CRASE training

provides tools on how to survive during active shooter situations.

"It also gives them the tools to recognize what's happening," Munguia said. "It also gives them the ability to have gone through these scenarios in their head. So, if or when it actually happens, they know how to react."

The training will consist of teaching the dynamics of an active shooter event, such as how people can barricade themselves. The chief said University

Police officers on campus are able to arrive at a scene quickly, between one and three minutes at most.

"We do these on a regular basis," he said about CRASE trainings. "We'll do them by request. It's the only course we also do by request. That's how important we feel this course is."

Accounting senior Greg Mar said the CRASE training is a great service University Police provides for the campus community.

"I think it's wonderful and I think it should be expressed more openly so that we, the people that are actually gonna be in the middle of it, would know," Mar said.

Exercise science sophomore Wendy Molejon said she would attend a CRASE training.

"It's something that could come in very handy because you just never know when something tragic like [an active shooter event] could happen and it could happen anywhere," Molejon said.

See **CRASE**, Page 1

Editorial Cartoon,

Page 8

CONSTRUCTION: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

Linbeck Group LLC employees work on the Brownsville Interdisciplinary Academic Building Feb. 1. The building is scheduled to be completed by January 2019.

“We’ll start seeing the delivery of the furniture and the installation take place right after they achieve substantial completion,” Salinas-Hovar said. “That’ll take about 30 days. ... We will be planning to move people into the building in the very early summer.”

New Science Building

The new four-story structure is located adjacent to the existing Science Building on the Edinburg campus and will provide additional research labs for students.

“One of the neat features on this building will be that on the first floor, we’ll have a very large instrumentation core that will support all of the research labs,” Salinas-Hovar said. “So, researchers can go down to the core lab area and it will have special instruments that everybody can use, so it’ll be a shared space for the researchers.”

Some of its other spaces include classrooms, teaching labs, and faculty and researcher offices.

The new Science Building will have group study rooms, collaboration spaces and huddle rooms.

“It will also have a wing that will be more for teaching,” she said. “So, one of the smaller wings will be for teaching labs. We’re going to have a couple of regular classrooms and then we’ll have, I think it’s four teaching labs, just general science teaching labs.”

At a cost of \$70 million, the construction of the facility is funded by the Permanent University Fund (PUF). The PUF is a public endowment contributing to the support of eligible institutions of the University of Texas System and the Texas A&M University System, according to the UT System website.

Salinas-Hovar told *The Rider* the furniture and installation will cost about \$1.8 million of the \$70 million.

The Rider toured the site in late January with Richard Shinsky, a UT System resident construction manager. Shinsky told the newspaper work crews from Vaughn Construction range between 270 to 300 people per day.

During the tour, he said there will be a courtyard between the space connecting the old and new buildings that will be designed to be “Saturn.”

A blue brick wall on the side of the new building, which will serve as a sun shade, and some areas on the ceiling will have “stars” painted on them.

The classrooms and teaching labs will be supported with audiovisual and IT technologies for long-distance and enhanced learning.

Music, Science and Learning Center

The \$54 million building is located on the right side of the circular drive in front of the Main Building on the Brownsville campus.

Its cost is also being financed through the PUF, Salinas-Hovar said. The furniture and installation cost

for the three-story facility is \$2.1 million.

“This new building for the MSLC is going to be, I think, great because it’s going to be offering large rehearsal rooms, similar to what we have at the music complex in Edinburg, and will also have a multipurpose space that can be used as a recital hall, but it can also be used for regular lectures or it can be used for receptions or other special events,” she said.

The new building in Brownsville will support general academics, music instruction and recitals, and science teaching labs.

Like the new Science Building in Edinburg, the facility will have group study rooms, collaboration spaces, huddle rooms and will be equipped with AV and IT technologies for distance and enhanced learning.

Additionally, the new facility will also have chemistry and environmental science labs on the third floor.

Salinas-Hovar said the music wing of the BMSLC will also have small rooms that can serve as private rehearsal areas or practice spaces.

“Students, oftentimes, that are taking music need a place to rehearse or to practice on their own,” she said. “So, the small, soundproof practice rooms are what they need. There’s also some rooms that are a little bit larger that are for ensembles, which could be anywhere from two people to maybe a group of six people or eight people.”

The building will have two wings arranged to create a courtyard. The wings are connected on the western side by a welcoming three-level exterior arcade clad with a brick colonnade and roof to provide protective shading.

Earlier this month, *The Rider* toured the site with Mateo “Matt” Maldonado, who is a construction inspector for the UT System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction.

Maldonado told *The Rider* between 150 and 200 Bartlett Cocke General Contractors employees have worked hard every day to complete the construction of the BMSLC.

Other projects

Aside from the buildings opening in Fall 2018, UTRGV is also expanding its main campuses with two more projects: the Brownsville Interdisciplinary Academic Building (BINAB) and the Edinburg Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academics Studies Building (IEASB).

The BINAB is being built on the existing parking lot directly across from the Main Building. Its cost is estimated at \$36 million and is being financed by tuition revenue bonds.

Tuition revenue bonds are bonds that are repaid by the state. The facility will provide instructional space



Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER

A blue brick wall on the side of the new Science Building on the Edinburg campus will serve as a sun shade for the facility. The \$70 million building is scheduled to open in Fall 2018.

for multiple areas of study, with a focus on physics, and will be completed in January 2019.

It will house four physics teaching labs, 11 45-seat classrooms, two multi-use classrooms, six 30-seat general classrooms, one computer teaching lab, offices and support spaces.

Linbeck Group LLC is the company building the BINAB.

The facility will consist of a pair of two-story wings arranged to create a courtyard, which will serve as a gathering area, study space and can be used for events. The two wings will connect with an exterior bridge.

The IEASB, located west of the University Library and north of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus, is also set for completion in January 2019.

It will provide classrooms and computer labs primarily for STEM students.

The building will cost \$35 million, \$5 million coming from the PUF and \$30 million from tuition revenue bonds.

Some of its features include six engineering teaching labs, two discipline-specific computer labs, eight 60-seat general classrooms, offices and support spaces.

The new facility will be one three-story building, which is being built by Vaughn Construction.

Brownsville: East Parking Lot

The ongoing construction of the BINAB resulted in a loss of parking space for campus community members in Brownsville.

To compensate for the displacement of 288 parking spaces, Lot B4 was built across the street from the Casa Bella student housing complex on the corner of FJRM Avenue and Tyler Street.

The new lot contains 295 parking spaces.

“There’s a bus stop, a bus shelter, right there that is adjacent to the fairly new parking lot,” Salinas-Hovar said. “We’d like to let students know that the parking lot is open, it’s available. We’d like to see students use it. It really isn’t very far from the campus, as far as walking distance, and, hopefully, soon enough, we’ll be able to see students parking there.”

She said the university believes the new parking lot is a good addition to the overall master plan for the Brownsville campus.

Salinas-Hovar said she and the university look forward to all the construction projects being completed to provide more resources for students.

“I’m looking forward to completing these two new buildings in Edinburg and Brownsville soon,” she said. “They’ll both be finished this spring. I’m getting excited about getting the furniture in there. ... The two other projects should be finished, hopefully, by the end of this year. We anticipate being able to have them open for the spring semester in 2019.”



Jesus Sanchez/THE RIDER

The new Science Building on the Edinburg campus will house research labs that will support biological and physical sciences, which includes physics, chemistry synthesis, general research requiring hoods, life sciences and geology.



Albert Monrroy/THE RIDER

The second floor in the Music, Science and Learning Center on the Brownsville campus contains a large indoor balcony that can serve as a student hangout area, which will be surrounded by general academics classrooms.

Life after retirement

Former university instructor looks to share writing techniques

Zugay Treviño
THE RIDER

Enrique Lerma, UTRGV's former learning specialist I who helped as an instructor for the High School Equivalency Program, retired on his birthday, Jan. 31, after working for legacy institutions Pan American University, UT Pan American and UTRGV since 1987.

At UTRGV, Lerma was an instructor who helped others attain their GED diploma. He also encouraged students to become voters. Lerma first became involved with the university after deciding to obtain his bachelor's degree. He wanted more than minimum-wage jobs and to have a better life for his family. At the time, Lerma and his wife, Ana, had their first daughter, Belza.

"I wanted to make a better life for her, too," he said. "She gave me a lot of incentive."

PAU was 6 miles down the road from where Lerma lived, so he took advantage of the close location and enrolled in classes in 1979.

After eight years, Lerma completed a bachelor's degree in political science and minored in English. He said he fell in love with the campus and was lucky to obtain a full-time job with the university.

"At one point, I would say

Pan Am was my life," Lerma said.

His other daughter, UTRGV communication disorders junior Tatiana Lerma, is also adjusting to his retirement. Tatiana shared a memory involving her father from when she was 4 years old. Her mother would drive by the university and point at the building her father worked at. Her mother would tell her, "Look, your dad works there."

Tatiana said, "[I was] little, all I [could] see [was] the Bronc statue. So, I thought he worked in the Bronc statue."

Lerma said he retired early at 63 years old to have the opportunity to attend conferences and share his writing methods.

"If you're working, you [have to] concentrate on your job," he said. "Now, I'm ready to move on to the next level."

Lerma will present at an upcoming conference in Louisville, Kentucky, on Friday to southeastern U.S. two-year English college professors. He also hopes retiring will allow him to help share his writing techniques with others and to possibly publish. Friends and family told him they were happy about his retirement and congratulated him.

As part of his job, Lerma would present at conferences regarding GED programs

about twice a year. He also has plans to collaborate and write a book to teach Composition I students his writing technique.

Retiring is a big change for Lerma.

"I'm used to getting up and going," he said. "You [have to] be at work; that's five days a week. Since we have students waiting for us ... you always feel, like, you have to be there before them. It's very different. The routine is over."

Lerma will continue to work on other side businesses and projects, but will occasionally travel. He will drive to his upcoming Kentucky presentation but is still unsure if he will also travel to New York.

"[I] might continue to New York City because there's this adult-education program of about 2,000 students that uses my writing technique," Lerma said.

He also said the students use his technique for ESL and GED purposes.

One of the most rewarding parts of his career at the university was being told by students they attained their GED diploma after his tutoring sessions.

"You could ask him anything and he was always up to date on politics, government, our GED process," said Aaron Sanchez, a co-worker who is



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Former UTRGV Learning Specialist I Enrique Lerma helped students from the university's High School Equivalency Program obtain a GED diploma. Lerma, who worked with the university since 1987, retired on his 63rd birthday last month.

also a learning specialist I. "He was the type of person that cared for the students and their well-being. He would always put their needs ahead of health or anything that was going on in his personal life. He was always very dedicated to this program."

Sanchez said graduation

days were one of his favorite experiences to have shared with Lerma. He also said he was glad he was able to learn from him.

"He really helped me develop as a professional in so many ways that I don't think I can ever thank him enough," Sanchez said.

In the boots of a Vaquero

UT System student regent visits Brownsville, Edinburg campuses

Reprinted from utrgvrider.com
Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At 3:15 p.m. last Tuesday, Jaciell Castro, the University of Texas System student regent, boarded the Vaquero Express Connector shuttle, traveling from Brownsville to Edinburg to gain the full UTRGV student experience.

"I'm thrilled to be able to spend more time with students and talk to them," Castro said before boarding the shuttle in front of Main Building. "Definitely very happy to have the opportunity to be in their shoes and see what they go through on a day-to-day basis. I'm excited to learn about the struggles that they have, again, being on both campuses and how we can, at the [UT] System level, support [them]."

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Castro as the student regent for the UT System for a one-year term that began on June 1, 2017. Castro is a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio and is pursuing a master's of finance in real estate development and investments, according to the UT System website.

The student regent visited the UTRGV main campuses and met with university officials and student leaders from Brownsville and Edinburg to discuss the opportunities and challenges at the university.

"I think there is a lot of potential in ensuring that every student gets the resources and the support that they need," Castro said after his visit to the Brownsville campus. "I also [had] the opportunity to be able to engage with students you probably wouldn't see on a day-to-day [basis] that maybe live a



Victor G. Ramirez/THE RIDER

Jaciell Castro, the University of Texas System student regent listens to Ernesto Farias, SGA senator-at-large for the Brownsville campus, speak about concerns and opportunities on the UTRGV campuses.

different context here in Brownsville than Edinburg. ... I'm beginning to realize how different the institutions are. So, I'm really excited about this new identity that's coming forth as a result of the merger."

During last Tuesday's visit in Brownsville, he met with student leaders from various organizations, including the Student Government Association.

Castro said he asked SGA members to make a list of things they were thankful for at UTRGV.

"They were ready to identify things like student success, the advising areas that have been getting better over time," he said. "They were able

to identify the leadership models that they have from the mentorship programs. ... They were also very transparent about the challenges, the transportation challenges between both campuses and the expectations [students have to meet, such as] being in every class, doing their homework. They were very honest."

The student regent also spoke with leaders from the Student Success office.

Student Success Vice President Kristin Croyle was among the administrators who met with Castro.

"He's a very accomplished man and has a lot of good questions," Croyle said. "[He] was very insightful about

[students'] education in general. My biggest takeaway was how interested he was across the board and he was interested in talking about things we are struggling with and [what] we are really doing well with. He's a great advocate for students in general."

During his visit, Castro went to the Border Fence, part of which runs along the UTRGV Main Building parking lot on the Brownsville campus.

"I was an undocumented student myself," he said. "I've never been near the wall and coming in terms with that reality, it was very important to me."

Castro also met with administrators and student leaders during his visit to the Edinburg campus Feb. 12. The student regent spoke with UTRGV President Guy Bailey, administrators from Strategic Enrollment and International Programs and Partnerships.

Croyle said she encourages UTRGV students to apply to become the UT System student regent in the future.

"[Castro] said it's been a great experience for him," she said. "He owns his own business and has a wide range of interests, but he said serving on the board has been a great experience for him and he's learned a lot from it."

Right before leaving to the Edinburg campus on the shuttle, Castro told *The Rider* he advises students to keep working hard and reach their goals.

Asked what message he had for the UTRGV student body, Castro replied: "Make sure that you own your future and that you create opportunities and that you make the best of everything."

--Albert Monrroy contributed to this report.

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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jesus Sanchez

ONLINE EDITOR

Alain Lestarpe

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sergio Garcia

SPANISH EDITOR

Eric Montoya

A&E EDITOR

Sydni D. Salinas

COPY EDITOR

P.J. Hernandez

CARTOONIST

Laia Vite

REPORTERS

Nubia Reyna
Gabriel Galvan
Britney Valdez
Steven Hughes
Zugay Treviño

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Albert Monrroy
Robert Benavidez Jr.
Valeria Alanis
Lesley Robles
Joahana Segundo

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Leslie Medrano

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Jessica Mendez
Jillian Glantz

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS

Victor G. Ramirez
Aaron Garza

FACULTY ADVISER

Michell Godinez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR

Azenett Cornejo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:

EDINBURG CAMPUS

1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170

Phone: (956) 665-2541

Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS

1 West University Blvd.

Student Union 1.16

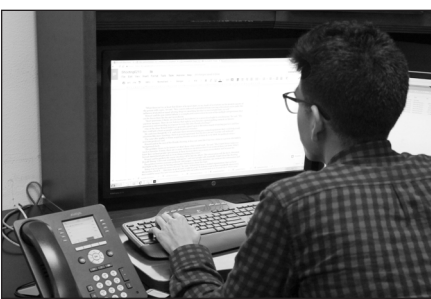
Phone: (956) 882-5143

Fax: (956) 882-5176

Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu

© 2018 The Rider

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.

Tuesday

Discrimination Discussion

Student Life will host its **Talk about it S'more: Racial Prejudice and Discrimination** at 7 p.m. in the University Center Lobby on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2660. The event is part of the university's observance of **Black History Month**.

Wednesday

Support Group

The **Collegiate Recovery Program** will host an **Addiction and Recovery Support Group** at 11 a.m. in Cortez Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus.



Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu

Active Shooter Training Course

The **UTRGV Police Department** will host a **training course** for civilians to respond efficiently, safely and decisively during an active shooter event from 9 to 11 a.m. in Student Union 2.406 on the Edinburg campus. The course is free to students, faculty and staff. For more information, call 665-7210 or 882-6550.

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 6 and 10



Feb. 6

9:16 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to Lot E16 due to a two-vehicle collision. One vehicle was not operable and was towed from the scene.

The other vehicle was driven away by its driver. No injuries were reported.

9:29 a.m.: An officer observed two vehicles racing on West University Boulevard in Brownsville. The officer conducted a traffic stop on both vehicles and identified the drivers as UTRGV students. The matter will be handled administratively by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

11:51 a.m.: A staff member in Edinburg reported losing university keys during the Christmas holiday.

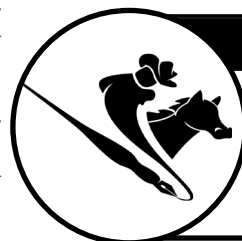
4:56 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus in reference to an ill student. A faculty member called 911 and requested an ambulance. Brownsville emergency medical services arrived and transported the student to Valley Baptist Medical Center for a medical evaluation.

Feb. 8

5:01 p.m.: A faculty member reported

that he suffered a cut thumb while retrieving an item from a vertical storage bin in the Texas Southmost College Music Building in Brownsville. It appears a razor blade was taped to the interior of the storage bin. The case is under investigation.

7:45 p.m.: A current student observed



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-2222

a former UTRGV student masturbating inside the first floor men's restroom in Academic Performing Arts Complex B on the Edinburg campus. Officers arrived at the men's restroom and observed the suspect masturbating. He was detained and transported to the UTRGV Police Department. The witness was willing to file criminal charges for the offense. A UTRGV detective was contacted and interviewed the suspect. After waiving his Miranda Warning, the suspect allegedly admitted to his involvement in the crime reported on Feb. 1 and 8. He was arrested and placed in the Edinburg City Jail pending his arraignment.

see Fernández.

At 5 p.m. Wednesday, the Mr. Amigo Walk of Fame Star Unveiling Ceremony will take place at Linear Park. During the event, a plaque honoring Fernández will be unveiled.

There will be performances, dancers and music. Admission is free.

At 10 a.m. Thursday, the Hands Across the Border ceremony will happen at Gateway International Bridge and is coordinated by the Mr. Amigo Association and Comité de Fiestas Mexicanas from Matamoros. In this event, besides other different activities, the mayors from both cities, Brownsville and Matamoros, as well as Mr. Amigo and Matamoros' *huésped distinguido*, actor Ferdinando Valencia, will meet halfway on the bridge to commemorate the relationship between the sister cities.

Martinez said Mr. Amigo will also make an appearance in the Illuminated Night Parade at 7 p.m. Friday and in the

Friday

Naloxone Training

The **UTRGV Collegiate Recovery Program** will host a **Naloxone training** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

Saturday

Discover UTRGV

Student Success will host its **Discover UTRGV** from noon to 5 p.m. at the Health and Physical Education II building on the Edinburg campus. This preview day will provide future students the opportunity to visit the campus, meet faculty, staff and current students, and ask college-related questions. For more information, call 665-7402.

Sunday

Symphonic Band performance

The **UTRGV Symphonic Band** will perform at 5 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

Wind Ensemble performance

The **UTRGV Wind Ensemble** will perform at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 665-3881.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

Feb. 9

11:48 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Lot B1 construction site in reference to a fight that had occurred between two construction workers. Both parties involved reported having been assaulted by one another. The case is under investigation.

5:43 p.m.: Officers responded to Lot E19 in reference to an auto-pedestrian accident involving a 2-year-old child who had been struck by a vehicle being operated by a non-affiliated woman. Emergency medical services transported the child to the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg, where

he was diagnosed with a fractured left tibia. He was then released from the hospital to his parents.

Feb. 10

2:01 p.m.: A fire alarm sounded during an event at the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium. The building was evacuated and the Edinburg Fire Department responded. They then cleared the building for re-entry.

10:11 p.m.: A student reported that earlier in the day another student assaulted him by pushing and striking him in the face after a basketball game in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

Grand International Parade at 1 p.m. Saturday. Both parades will proceed down East Elizabeth Street through historic downtown Brownsville.

UTRGV and TSC will host a series of events leading up to the Mr. Amigo presentation.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, UTRGV will commemorate Charro Days with the Charreada, which will take place on the Student Union lawn.

Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities, said that various student organizations have signed up to sell a variety of *antojitos mexicanos*, or snacks. She said Grupo Naval will provide live entertainment during the Charreada.

"It is going to be a very lively atmosphere," Mata-Vasquez said. "We are going to have games. We are going to be giving out our annual mariachi T-shirts that we give out every year. We only have a limited quantity, so

See **CHARREADA**, Page 10

Manteniendo la tradición

UTRGV y TSC, anfitriones de la Charreada 2018

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Una vez más, la ciudad de Brownsville se está preparando para las Fiestas del Charro (Charro Days) y UTRGV es parte de la celebración. A mediodía del jueves, la presentación de Mr. Amigo tomará lugar en el Texas Southmost College Arts Center. El evento de bienvenida es organizado gracias a la colaboración de UTRGV, TSC y el Mr. Amigo Association. Este año, Mr. Amigo 2017 será el famoso cantante, compositor, actor y conductor de televisión mexicano, Pedro Fernández.

Sergio Martinez, presidente de la organización sin fines de lucro Mr. Amigo Association, dijo que, durante los últimos 54 años, la organización ha reconocido a “un individuo icónico del país de México [quien] promueva la hermandad, camaradería, espíritu y esencia de México”. “Hemos seleccionado a famosos Mr. Amigos en el pasado, incluyendo Vicente Fernández, Juan Gabriel, Cantinflas, más recientemente, Eduardo Yáñez, Itatí Cantoral, y este año, será Pedro Fernández”, dijo Martinez. “El propósito de Mr. Amigo es promover la cultura de la frontera, promover la herencia y cultura mexicana. Y, ya que somos una organización sin fines de lucro en los Estados Unidos, es una forma de promover la relación que hemos establecido con nuestro país vecino de México”.

Él dijo que cada año el Mr. Amigo Association organiza un comité para decidir quién será el próximo Mr. Amigo. “Cada año trabajamos juntos a través de un comité del Mr. Amigo Association, un comité compuesto por los pasados siete presidentes”, dijo Martinez. “Usualmente, revisamos recomendaciones del presidente para la selección y luego mediante este proceso empezamos a invitar a diferentes personas hasta que encontramos a alguien que esté disponible y quiera participar en nuestros eventos”. Martinez dijo que hay diferentes eventos que el Mr. Amigo Association organizará donde la gente podrá ver a Fernández. A las 5 p.m. del miércoles, el evento Mr. Amigo Walk of Fame Star Unveiling Ceremony tomará lugar en Linear Park. Durante este evento, se develará una placa conmemorativa en honor a Fernández. Habrá actuaciones, bailarines y música. La admisión es gratuita. A las 10 a.m. del jueves, la ceremonia Hands Across the Border (también conocido como Saludo Binacional) se llevará a cabo en el Gateway International Bridge y lo coordinarán el Mr. Amigo Association y el Comité de Fiestas Mexicanas de Matamoros.



Miembros del Colegio Juvenal Rendón de Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, marchan hacia Ringgold Road para el evento de bienvenida de Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo, durante la Charreada del año pasado.

En este evento, además de otras diferentes actividades, los gobernadores de ambas ciudades, Brownsville y Matamoros, también como Mr. Amigo y el huésped distinguido de Matamoros, el actor Ferdinando Valencia, se reunirán a la mitad del puente para conmemorar la relación de las ciudades hermanas. Martinez dijo que Mr. Amigo también se dejará ver en el Illuminated Night Parade a las 7 p.m. del viernes y en el Grand International Parade a la 1 p.m. del sábado. Ambos desfiles procederán en East Elizabeth Street atravesando el centro histórico de Brownsville. UTRGV y TSC serán anfitriones de una serie de eventos que abrirán paso a la presentación de Mr. Amigo. A las 6 p.m. del miércoles, UTRGV conmemorará Charro Days con la Charreada, la cual tomará lugar en la explanada de la Unión Estudiantil. Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director de Actividades Estudiantiles, dijo que varias organizaciones estudiantiles se han inscrito para vender una variedad de antojitos mexicanos. Ella dijo que el Grupo Naval proporcionará el entretenimiento durante la Charreada. “Será una atmosfera animada”, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Tendremos juegos. Vamos a estar dando nuestras camisetas anuales de mariachi que damos cada año. Solo tenemos una cantidad limitada, así que las estaremos dando conforme los estudiantes vayan llegando”.

Ella dijo que los estudiantes necesitarán presentar sus identificaciones escolares para poder recibir camisetas de mariachi. La Charreada se ha llevado a cabo desde el 2016 para conmemorar Charro Days e involucrar a los estudiantes en la celebración, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Sabemos que Charro Days ha sido una tradición duradera en el campus de Brownsville”, ella dijo. “Así que, queríamos hacer algo para conmemorar eso y hacerlo más acerca de nuestros estudiantes. De esta forma, nuestros estudiantes tienen algo que celebrar, así como también la comunidad de Brownsville”. Ella dijo que la idea de crear una Charreada vino de Fiesta UTSA, la cual es una celebración similar organizada por el campus de University of Texas at San Antonio. “Junto con los estudiantes de aquel tiempo, se nos ocurrió la idea de tener una feria similar a lo que es Fiesta en San Antonio”, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Así que, tomamos algo de inspiración de Fiesta UTSA ... y pensamos, ‘Sabes que, hay que intentarlo’. El evento está abierto a la comunidad, así que definitivamente esperamos que la comunidad de Brownsville sea capaz de salir y disfrutar algo de lo que UTRGV tiene que ofrecer”.

A las 10:45 a.m. del jueves, un desfile comenzará desde UTRGV PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón y atravesará el Paseo de TSC. El desfile terminará a las 11 a.m. en el TSC Arts Center. Mata-Vasquez dijo que el desfile simboliza la unidad entre UTRGV y TSC. “El desfile es nuestra forma de unir fuerzas con nuestros compañeros de TSC”, ella dijo, instando a todos a vestirse de una manera tradicional mexicana. De 11 a.m. a mediodía mariachis y bailarines folklóricos expondrán. Luego, Mr. Amigo 2017, Pedro Fernández, será honrado en la misma localización. La presentación durará una hora. De mediodía a 2 p.m. habrá música, comida y juegos en el estacionamiento de TSC Oliveira Student Services Center. Luis Barreda, un estudiante de biología de segundo año de UTRGV, dijo que además de la comida, una de las cosas favoritas de Charro Days es el tiempo que puede pasar con su familia. “La música, la emoción de estar entre la gente”, dijo Barreda. “El tiempo

que paso con mi familia. Quiero decir, este Charro Days, todos nos vamos a reunir. Esa es una de las cosas que hacemos juntos aparte de la navidad”. Él dijo que ha visto a Pedro Fernández en varias telenovelas y también tiene unas pocas canciones de Fernández en su teléfono. José Martín Cuevas Cobos, mejor conocido por su nombre artístico, Pedro Fernández, nació el 28 de septiembre de 1969 en Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, pero creció en Villa Corona, Jalisco. Empezó su carrera como Pedrito Fernández a la edad de siete años con su primer álbum titulado, “La de la Mochila Azul”. Ha participado en diferentes filmes cinematográficos incluyendo, “Coqueta” y “Delincuente”. El cantante también ha protagonizado telenovelas como “Hasta Que el Dinero nos Separe” y “Hasta el Fin del Mundo”. Algunas de sus canciones más populares son “Aventurero”, “Yo No Fui”, “Amarte a la Antigua”, y más recientemente, “Hasta el Fin del Mundo”. Los géneros musicales de sus canciones abarcan desde ranchera y mariachi hasta pop latino y baladas. “Es muy entretenido verlo”, dijo Barreda. “También es un cantante famoso a nivel mundial. Hasta tengo un par de canciones de él y las escucho”. Él también dijo que planea asistir al Sombrero Festival, al Charro Days Carnival y al Grand International Parade para ver a Fernández. Martinez dijo que Charro Days es importante porque promueve la paz. “Creo que todos tenemos problemas y retos, pero creo que si trabajáramos juntos de una manera profesional y civil, podríamos superar cualquier reto y divertirnos al mismo tiempo”, él dijo. Mata-Vasquez alienta a los estudiantes a asistir a los eventos de la Charreada y a enviar ideas sobre los eventos o tradiciones que les gustaría ver al correo electrónico involvement@utrgv.edu. “Queremos que ellos sientan que es su evento”, ella dijo. “El evento siempre estará creciendo con las ideas que los estudiantes nos dan, así que, definitivamente queremos que ellos sientan que pertenecen aquí y que la universidad también es parte de la comunidad”. Para más información respecto a la Charreada y la presentación de Mr. Amigo, visita www.utrgv.edu/charreada.



Miembros de ambos campus bailan al ritmo de “Payaso del Rodeo” por Caballo Dorado, durante la Charreada del año pasado en UTRGV y Texas Southmost College.

UTRGV

IT

TECH DAYS

FOR STUDENTS

Come join Information Technology for the inaugural IT Tech Days!



Meet technology experts from IT departments and vendors!



Get advice on personal computers, devices, and campus printers!




Learn about technology to enrich your academic experience!



Free food, drinks and popcorn!

Tuesday, Feb. 20
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ballroom (EUCTR)

Thursday, Feb. 22
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón (BSTUN 2.360)

 **Information Technology**

For more information, or for special accommodations, contact Dina Lopez at (956) 665-5343.

Attend for a chance to win raffle prize!



Dr. Alejandra Ponce
Internal Medicine
Board Certified

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Diabetes •Thyroid
- High Cholesterol
- Osteoporosis
- Women's Health
- Hypertension
- Botox •Lip Fillers

INSURANCES ACCEPTED:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- United Healthcare
- Medicare •Humana
- Aetna •Cigna




PONCE MEDICAL

NEW LOCATION!
2449 Boca Chica Blvd. STE C
Brownsville, TX 78521
956-350-2973

ADVERTISE WITH US

CALL US AT
882-5143 OR 665-2541


Have a story idea?
Let us know at
882-5143 or 665-2541



CHARREADA

AT UTRGV & TSC

Wednesday, Feb. 21 • UTRGV Student Union Lawn 6 - 9 p.m.
Live music, food booths, contests and games.



MR. AMIGO
Presentation Honoring

Pedro Fernández

Thursday, Feb. 22 • TSC Performing Arts Center 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
TSC Paseo 12 to 2 p.m.
Music, food booths and games.

In our neighborhood

UTRGV Theatre to perform Lin-Manuel Miranda’s ‘In the Heights’

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

What do you think of when you think of family? For some, the immediate thought of one’s mother and father’s faces come to mind. Plastered in your memories are the minuscule moments of small happiness that you share with the people you love.

For others, family is the community they leaned on when times were rough. But for us all, family is the multitude of people and places we leave fragments of our hearts with.

In the Hispanic culture, family is something revolved around, never once separating itself from the impact

After the audition process, the cast was quickly thrust into learning the musical material.

“We started early. We started singing before Christmas, and getting ready to dance quite a bit, in which some cases requires a lot of flexible movement and warmup,” he said. “Then, just thinking about home and what family means to them, and how they’re going to project those emotions into the show.”

Family was deeply focused on for the cast, as was reflection on what their culture meant to them.

Theatre performance junior Selina Soto, who plays Abuela, the matriarch of the barrio, could identify with her role in a personal way that reflected

“I’m basing my character off of my grandmother who passed away when I was younger,” Ramirez said. “That’s where I got the name Juana. So, that’s what I am using it for. For that, I’m just trying to build a thought, like, ‘How would my abuela be when she was younger? More feistier?’ She was always a feisty woman, very strong, and I appreciated that because I got that.”

“Then, I’m basing my character being from Mexico, and she traveled with her family and that’s kind of my mom’s story. She was from Mexico, then she crossed over to America when she was younger.”

Despite being able to resonate with

singing early on.

“When it comes to the singing aspect, I tried to eat healthy, all of that stuff, [to] do better vocally,” Vela said. “Actingwise, I can relate to this character a lot, so it was a lot easier for me to get into it, whereas other characters were harder.”

Gina Rodriguez, musical director and theatre performance senior, said the play is technical and requires a lot from the cast.

“It’s a lot to make sure they understand that they’re singing this particular note on this measure and this song, then something different in this one,” Rodriguez said. “It’s a lot of muscle memory.”



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER PHOTOS

UTRGV Theatre Department practices for its upcoming musical, “In the Heights,” which will premiere at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

it has on one’s life.

This spring, the UTRGV Theatre Department took on Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical, “In the Heights,” based in the barrio of Washington Heights, New York City. The work is based on the book by Quiara Alegria Hudes of the same name.

The story centers on the Hispanic community and their personal trials. More so, how they conquer those trials together.

Under the direction of Associate Professor Brian Warren, preparation for the musical was its own big endeavor, with auditions taking place in a span of three days and concluding with 23 cast members.

“Three days. There was a dance audition, vocal music one, and then they got called back if they were right for one of the leads,” Warren said. “It was long, longer than most.”

perfectly the journey to find the meaning of family and culture.

“She is older, so she lost her mother growing up,” Soto said. “For me, I lost my mother a few years ago. So, I can understand her wanting and talking to her through her songs. That’s something I personally identify with.”

“Plus, the fact that we’re all immigrants here, too.”

The power of representation is presented perfectly due to the story being something most of the cast could relate to in their own image. Nowhere to be found are whitewashed versions of the Hispanic culture, but actual portrayals of people from that community.

Theatre performance junior Brianna Ramirez based her ensemble character, Juana, on her own personal experiences with her grandmother and immigrant mother.



Theatre performance junior Matthew Garcia stars as Benny, the love interest of young Nina. Garcia was anxious about acting in a musical.

the plot on personal and culturally accurate levels, the cast had to work harder in order to learn Miranda’s lyrics and upbeat choreography.

Miranda is known for innovative musical storytelling by doing it with fast-paced freestyle rap that is challenging to get down precisely.

To prepare for this, theatre performance junior Matthew Garcia, who plays the role of Benny, listened to the music as often as possible.

“When I got cast [in] the role, I was excited and super scared and so, literally the day of, I started listening to the songs over, and over, and over again since like, December,” Garcia said. “I’ve been listening to these songs over and over for months. I’m surprised I’m not tired of them.”

Similar to Garcia, international business sophomore Brianna Vela, who plays Nina, prepared for her

The biggest challenge she faced directing came from the large ensemble’s number and having to gauge where scenes were happening and when.

To overcome this, Rodriguez said a big part of it was, “Making sure everyone knows their part, and where it fits with everyone else.”

The musical will be accompanied by a live band, who will perform musical scores spanning from salsa and hip-hop to merengue.

If you want to participate in a moment of cultural representation and beautiful storytelling, “In the Heights” will run at 7:30 p.m. from Feb. 28 to March 3 and 2 p.m. March 4 in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

General admission is \$15, and \$5 for UTRGV students and staff with ID.

As Rodriguez said, “If you want to have fun, come see the show!”

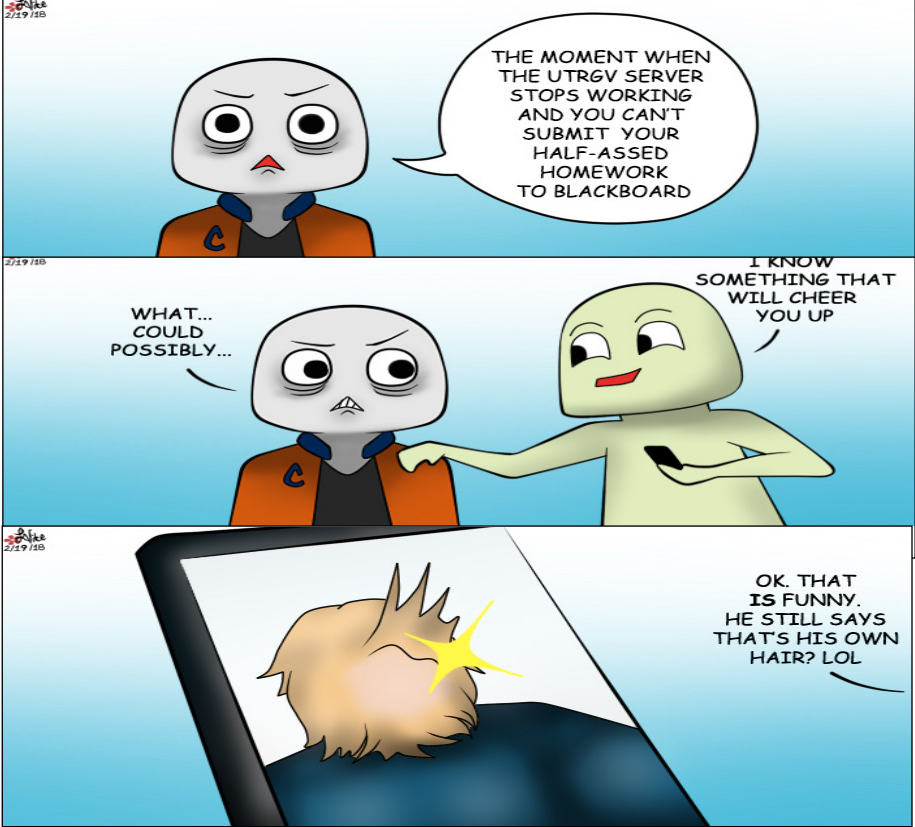


SUDOKU

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

Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



VAQUERO VOICE

Homecoming and Charro Days



"Honestly, I've heard about [Charro Days] and I've gone to it one time and it was something really impacting. So, I believe a lot of people should actually be attending it, because it's a good way to get out and interact with people, especially down here, because, I've noticed in this university, there's not a lot of interaction. ... But, Charro Days, I like it a lot. You get to grow as a community, be with people [the] same as you and you get to interact."

Gaudencio Reyna
Information systems senior

"So, in Canada, we don't have Homecoming or [Charro Days], which is kinda weird, but also cool. I haven't heard of Homecoming before, but I guess that's because I'm from a small suburb town in Ottawa.

So, like, it's really small and no one goes out of there, so you know the same people. So, I guess there's no Homecoming, but in the bigger cities, I'm sure there's something like that."



Meghna Turlapati
Theatre design freshman



"Homecoming, no estoy muy segura, exactamente, que es Homecoming. Pero Charro Days, sí estoy emocionada por eso. Es la cultura de Matamoros [Tamaulipas, México,] y Brownsville, algo que no se hace en diferentes lugares. También, aparte, se juntan muchas personas del Valle. Se juntan aquí en la ciudad de Brownsville y estoy emocionada por eso. Porque es una fiesta folklórica y una fiesta de cultura".

Rita Salazar
Estudiante de último grado de inglés

"Charro Days is a celebration between the communities in Brownsville and Matamoros [Tamaulipas, Mexico], but I'm not really a fan of Charro Days. ... It's a cliché. It's a stereotype. I think it's only celebrated [on] the border. I believe in Mexico, they don't even know what Charro Days is. It's only on the border. ... I don't know what Homecoming is. The only positive thing about Charro Days is the communities have a nice meeting, reunion, and they get to share their similarities and foreign relations. I think Charro Days enhances those relations."



Francisco Arredondo
Environmental science graduate student

—Compiled by Albert Monrroy

2/19/18

"WE'RE CHILDREN.
YOU GUYS ARE
THE ADULTS."
-DAVID HOGG

YOU WON'T
TAKE THEM
FROM
ME



Friends forever

Growing together while growing apart



Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

I met my best friend when I was 6 years old. We had been next door neighbors our whole lives, but it wasn't until my mother arranged a play date for us that we started speaking to each other.

At first, I was mortified that my mother was pushing me to make friends, but in hindsight, I'm glad she did.

After that, she and I were inseparable. Metaphorically, of course. Throughout our elementary, middle and high school years, we rarely had a class together, but since we lived next to each other, our bond was stronger than ever.

We made time for each other and would spend as much time together as possible by playing outside for hours on end at a time. We blossomed together. Every victory, low or embarrassing moment, heartache, failed test or fight—she was there for me.

She and I would always try to imagine what we'd be like as adults. We fantasized the houses, cars and jobs

we'd have. Despite all of the dreaming we'd do, one thing never crossed my mind—would we be doing these things together?

In the months leading up to high school graduation, we had grown apart significantly and began to lose contact.

Both of us became overwhelmed and preoccupied with applying for college and choosing our majors. I was applying as a business major and she was leaning toward art, education and writing.

The thought of expanding our horizons outside our small town was beyond exciting, but the thought of dissolving our friendship after 12 years was scary.

I was already sad about leaving my family and hometown behind, but became sadder when I realized I was leaving her behind, too.

In the blink of an eye, we graduated from high school and the summer before our first semester of college was coming to a close.

We said our goodbyes weeks before my 18th birthday. We promised to keep in touch, but I was doubtful of that happening.

After we started college, I had completely detached myself from high school friends in order to get a fresh start. However, I struggled immensely with making new friends and often found myself alone and miserable most of the time.

That period of isolation taught me that a friendship can withstand anything, even distance.

It has been about two years since high school graduation and I can confidently say that we're closer than ever. Just like before, we make time to see each other, chat frequently and cheer each other on from our respective schools and cities.

She turned 20 in November, making this the first birthday of hers that I've missed during our 13-year friendship. I've been thinking about her a lot lately, mostly wondering if I've missed anything else during our time apart.

I want my story to demonstrate that distance is no obstacle in friendship and to inspire others to reach out to old friends, catch up with them and show that you care.

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.

FOLLOW US!



LIKE US
ON FACEBOOK



Snapchat



Twitter

@UTRGV_TheRider

A BASKETBALL BOND

Alain Lestarbe
ONLINE EDITOR

It is easy to see the camaraderie in the UTRGV Women’sBasketball Team. However, two of its players share a bond beyond that of teammates. These two athletes are sisters and guards Daniela and Emily Azubell.

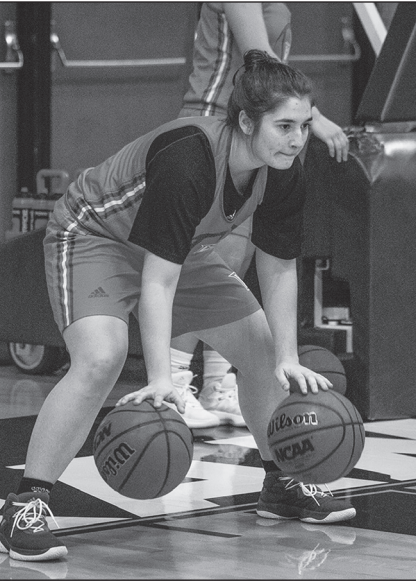
Their exposure to basketball began early. They first hit the hardwood in fourth and fifth grades as teammates for a church. From there, they went on to play for Robert Vela High School in Edinburg, Allen Community College, Coastal Bend College and UTRGV.

Emily is a senior studying multidisciplinary studies and Daniela is a management junior.

It is not often that one sees siblings playing on the same team. The Azubell sisters said playing together has helped them become better.

“We get competitive with each other,” Daniela said.

“We’ll go home and talk about practice and stuff and be, like, ‘I should’ve done this or that.’ We push each other to be better,” Emily said.



Management junior guard Daniela Azubell works on a dribbling drill to improve her basketball handling during practice in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. Daniela said she finds peace and solitude through basketball.



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Management junior Daniela Azubell and multidisciplinary studies senior Emily Azubell prepare for a basketball drill during practice in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. The sisters were introduced to the sport at a young age.

Fellow teammate Idil Türk said the sisters are a vital component on the team.

“They are good players and even better teammates,” Türk said. “It doesn’t matter if they’re on the court or off the court, they always cheer. They are two players that any teammate would want on their team.”

The Azubells are two of only three athletes on the team who were born and raised locally. There is always the stigma that local fans expect native players to perform better during games. Nevertheless, the sisters said they have felt quite the opposite.

“The community is really supportive,” Emily said. “The [Rio Grande] Valley is so supportive of their athletes. I just feel their support more

than anything.”

Even with the unwavering support of the fans, the sisters said their mom is the core of their success on and off the court.

“She always works hard and she is a single mom raising us,” Emily said. “We always look up to her for her hard work. We try to follow her example.”

Surprisingly, the sisters did not inherit their love for basketball from their parents. They discovered it on their own and to them, it is more than just a sport. Daniela said in basketball, she finds the peace and solitude needed to get through her week.

“Basketball is a fun way to escape everything,” Daniela said. “You can play for hours and hours and

you don’t think of any chores, any responsibilities, homework or school. When you play it and you love it, you just want to do it all the time.”

Roommate and fellow player Laura Van Tilburg said that outside of the court, the sisters are exemplary individuals.

“They have great character ... they really set a good example,” Van Tilburg said. “I trust them. They have good morals, good ethics, they’re just overall good people.”

Outside of school and training, the sisters enjoy playing basketball with their siblings and watching suspense movies together.

Catch No. 2 Emily and No. 3 Daniela as they battle it out on the court against Western Athletic Conference foe University of Missouri-Kansas City at 7 p.m. Thursday on the WAC Digital Network at <http://wacsports.com/watch/>.



Multidisciplinary studies senior guard Emily Azubell sprints down the court during practice in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. Emily said she appreciates the support of the local community and continuously looks up to her mother’s hardworking example.



Jennifer Zapata, a criminal justice senior and Los Fresnos native, is a third-year distance runner for UTRGV Women’s Track & Field and Cross-Country teams.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? “A bird, so that I can fly everywhere instead of running.”
What show or series are you currently into? “I guess anime. I’ve been waiting for ‘Attack on Titan’ and ‘My Hero Academia.’”
Who is your personal hero and why? “I guess, my mom, because she is really strong and I wish I could be more like her every single day.”
Who makes you laugh the most on the team? “Thalia Polanco. She is really ... I don’t know ... mischievous, always wanting to make the environment a little bit better and happier. So, her for sure.”
What is the best advice you’ve received recently? “I guess just to run. Coach [during the] last meet, he just told us to have fun, especially when we are going to have a lot of competition. I was going to be on the bottom, but it was going to be a good experience to see where I am at with the girls.”
If a song played every time you walked into a room, what song would that be? “I guess, any one of Taylor Swift’s songs. I really like Taylor Swift.”
On your off time, what do you like to do? “Besides running, I like to ride my bike everywhere.”
If you had one superpower, what would it be and why? “Flying.”
If you weren’t running for track & field or cross-country, what sport would you be doing? “I would do pole vault. I think they look really strong.”
You can have one meal with one celebrity, what is your meal and who are you eating with? “Pizza with Taylor Swift.”
--Compiled by Lesley Robles

Club Spotlight



Lesley Robles/*THE RIDER*

Members of the Student Nurse Organization include (front row, from left) Vice President Alexia Treviño, Secretary Julie Scoggins and Public Relations Officer Natalia Gomez. Back row: Historian Osbaldo Flores, Treasurer Juan Rodriguez, President Cornelius Sublette, Fundraising Chair Rachel Tunberg and Sergeant-at-Arms Manuel Uribe.

Name: Student Nurse Organization

Purpose: To contribute to the nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality health care; to provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns; and, to aid in the development of the whole person and his/her responsibility for the health care of people in all walks of life.

President: Cornelius Sublette

Vice President: Alexia Treviño

Secretary: Julie Scoggins

Treasurer: Juan Rodriguez

Historian: Osbaldo Flores

Sergeant-at-arms: Manuel Uribe

Public Relations Officer: Natalia Gomez

Fundraising Chair: Rachel Tunberg

Adviser: Clinical Assistant Professor Esmeralda Garza

Activities: The organization helps the School of Nursing with events, such as the 50 Years of Caring banquet, Children’s Diabetes Camp, Nurse Family Partnership Christmas party, junior orientation and pinning ceremonies.

Awards: Recognized by the School of Nursing in December 2017.

Meetings: To be announced.

Membership requirements: Members must be UTRGV students. \$5 fee, only for seniors in their last semester of the nursing program.

For more information, email: sno.utrgv@gmail.com.

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

CRASE

Continued from Page 1

To register for CRASE and view additional trainings, visit utrgv.edu/training.

Last Thursday, Nikolas Cruz, the 19-year-old suspect who was expelled from the Parkland, Florida, high school the previous year, was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder.

Cruz was taken into custody last Wednesday by the Coconut Creek Police Department after opening fire in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, killing 15 victims on site, according to a news release from the Broward County Sheriff’s Office.

Two of 17 more victims who were transported to local medical facilities died last Wednesday.

The Florida shooting has reignited the gun-control debate across the nation with several members of Congress voicing their thoughts on the issue, including U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Florida).

“Let’s get at the root cause of this issue; let’s do what we all know needs to be done,” Nelson said in a news conference last Thursday. “Let’s do it now and not later. Let’s just not talk about it; let’s do something about it. Let’s make what happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School a pivotal moment in this country’s history. Not because it was one of the largest mass shootings, but, hopefully, because it was the last.”

CHARREADA

Continued from Page 4

those are for students, first come, first serve.”

She said students need to have their IDs in order to receive a mariachi T-shirt.

The Charreada has been held every year since 2016 to commemorate Charro Days and engage students in the celebration, Mata-Vasquez said.

“We know that Charro Days has been a long-standing tradition at the Brownsville campus,” she said. “So, we ... wanted to do something to commemorate that and make it more about our students. That way, our students have something to celebrate, as well as the Brownsville community.”

She said the idea of creating a Charreada came from Fiesta UTSA, which is a similar celebration organized at the University of Texas at San Antonio campus.

“Along with the students at the time, we came up with the idea of hosting a fair similar to what Fiesta in San Antonio is,” Mata-Vasquez said. “So, we took some inspiration from Fiesta UTSA ... and we thought, ‘You know, let’s try it out.’ The event is open to the community, so we definitely hope that the Brownsville community is able to come out and enjoy some of what

The Rider asked several UTRGV students about their thoughts on the Florida shooting.

“Horrific. Monstrous,” biology senior Ricardo Ramirez said. “I don’t know. I can’t really describe it in words, but it was really bad. I can’t find why people do that stuff like that.”

In spite of school shootings across the nation, biology freshman Cristien Cornejo said he feels safe on campus because of the University Police department, its officers and services it provides.

UTRGV political science Associate Professor James Wenzel said the gun-control debate is a complex issue.

“If you look at the current spectrum of [gun-control laws], there is what’s called a federal background check requirement, that if you go to a federally licensed gun dealer, you are required to have a background check done before you’re allowed purchase of a firearm,” Wenzel said.

The political science associate professor said most of the gun-control laws and regulations are done at the state level.

“What there isn’t is, at least that I know of in most states, is any kinds of restrictions on the mental capacity of the person with a gun,” he said. “Now, you’re outlawed or prohibited from carrying a firearm if you’re under the influence of alcohol or mood-altering drugs or something like that in most jurisdictions, as well.”

Wenzel said the gun-control debate

UTRGV has to offer.”

At 10:45 a.m. Thursday, a parade will take place from UTRGV PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón along the TSC Paseo. The parade will end at 11 a.m. at the TSC Arts Center.

Mata-Vasquez said the parade symbolizes the unity between UTRGV and TSC.

“The walking parade is our way of joining forces with our TSC partners,” she said, encouraging everyone to dress in traditional Mexican attire.

From 11 a.m. to noon mariachis and folkloric dancers will perform.

Then, Mr. Amigo 2017, Pedro Fernández, will be honored at the same location. The presentation will last one hour.

From noon to 2 p.m. there will be music, food booths and games at the TSC Oliveira Student Services Center parking lot.

Luis Barreda, a UTRGV biology sophomore, said that besides the food, one of his favorite parts of Charro Days is the time he gets to spend with his family.

“The music, the excitement of being around people,” Barreda said. “The time I get to be with my family. I mean, this Charro Days, we are all going to get together. This is the one thing that we all do together besides Christmas.”

He said he has seen Pedro Fernández

in a complicated conversation because of the multiple interpretations that can be drawn from the Second Amendment.

“Most Americans, I think, see [the Second Amendment] as a generalized right to own firearms,” he said. “The question becomes, ‘How do you balance that right to own firearms against putting controls on firearm possession and ownership in response to cases like [the Florida shooting]?’”

One of the ideas Wenzel believes is generally agreed upon is the enforcement of existing gun laws and how they could put a limit on people’s ability to possess firearms.

He said even though the U.S. and states have several existing gun-control regulations that would help avoid situations like mass shootings, there is general agreement that the laws are not “terribly well-enforced.”

The same idea applies to felons acquiring firearms as most of them do so by theft, the political science associate professor said.

Wenzel said in the case of the Florida shooting, it does not seem like Cruz was a felon or a person who failed a background check.

“The problem I have, to be honest, is I don’t know what would work,” he said. “The United States today is a wash in firearms. I mean, there are so many of them in circulation that it’s an ocean of them out there. I don’t know how we limit people’s possession of them because there are so many in

in several *telenovelas*, or soap operas, and also has a few songs of Fernández in his phone.

José Martín Cuevas Cobos, better known by his artistic name, Pedro Fernández, was born on Sep. 28, 1969, in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, but grew up in Villa Corona, Jalisco. He started his career as Pedrito Fernández at age 7 with his first album titled, “*La de la Mochila Azul*.” He has participated in different films including “*La Niña de la Mochila Azul*,” “*Coqueta*” and “*Delincuente*.” The singer has also starred in soap operas, such as “*Hasta Que el Dinero Nos Separe*” and “*Hasta el Fin del Mundo*.” Some of his most popular songs are “*Aventurero*,” “*Yo No Fui*,” “*Amarte a la Antigua*,” and most recently, “*Hasta el Fin del Mundo*.” The genres of his songs range from *ranchera* and mariachi to Latin pop and ballads.

“He is very fun to watch,” Barreda said. “He is also a world-famous singer. I mean, I have a couple of songs myself and I listen to them.”

circulation and because the Second Amendment prevents us from doing anything draconian.”

Wenzel said he predicts the recent shooting will be like the others: The conversation will die down, President Donald Trump “will tweet something outrageous” and most people will, eventually, forget about the shooting.

The political science associate professor said campus community members can continue the conversation and shed light on the issues by having informative discussions about the topic.

“Bring it up in [political science classes],” he said. “I think that there’s student organizations that can have discussions about it. ... Questions to professors would be great. If students want to have roundtable discussions, that would be great. I’m sure you can find people who are willing to participate in it. I would do it. I have some colleagues who probably would as well.”

Asked his thoughts on UTRGV police providing CRASE trainings for the campus community, Wenzel replied that he would encourage people to participate because the issue is becoming prevalent enough where having some kind of awareness as to what to do in an active shooter event is important.

--Nubia Reyna, Albert Monrroy and Jessica Mendez contributed to this report.

He also said he plans to attend Sombrero Festival, the Charro Days Carnival and the Grand International Parade to see Fernández.

Martinez said Charro Days is important because it promotes peace.

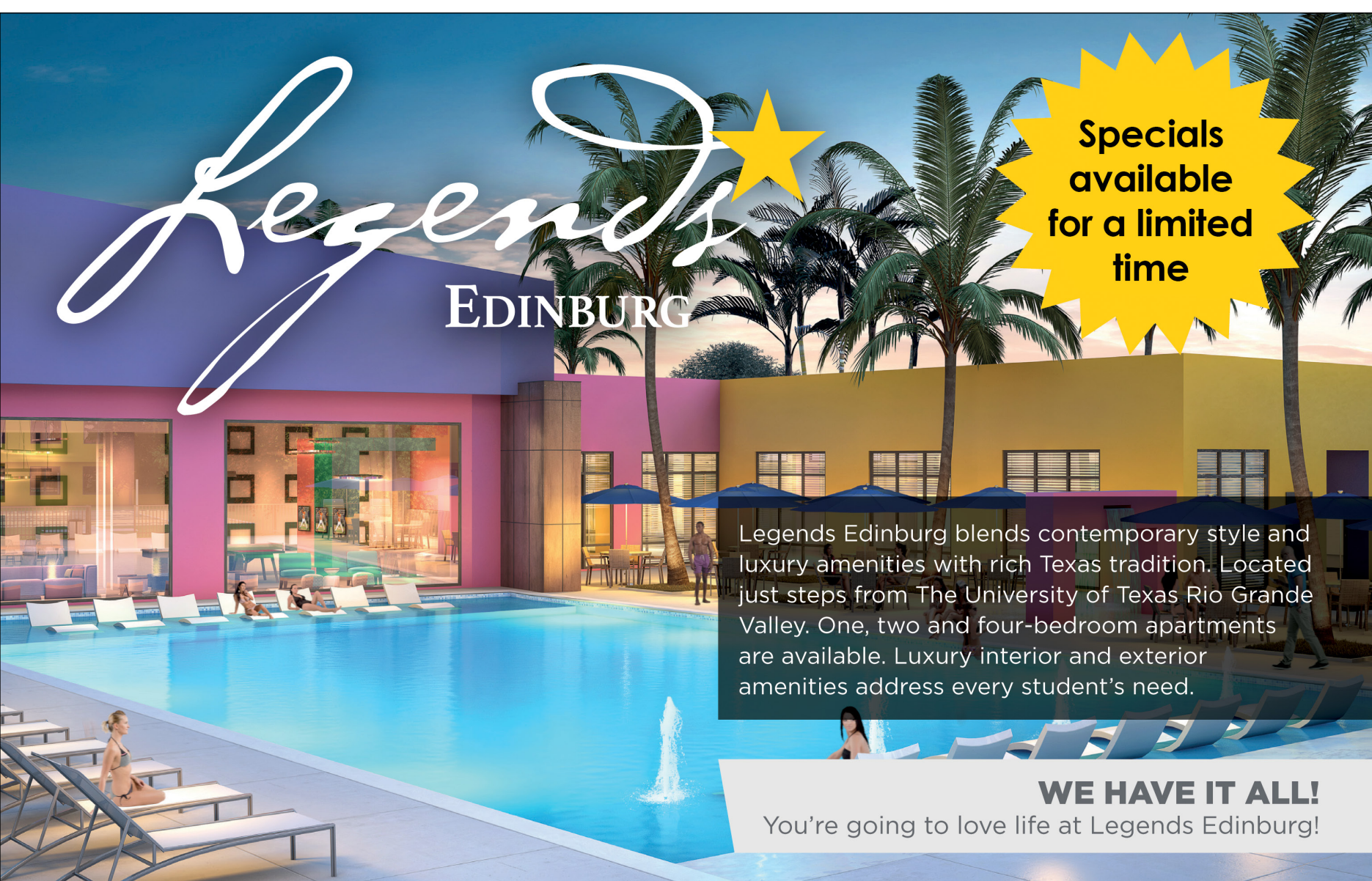
“I think we all have problems and challenges, but I think that if we would work together in a professional, civil manner, we could overcome any challenge and have some fun at the same time,” he said.

Mata-Vasquez encourages students to attend the Charreada events and send any ideas about events or traditions they would like to see to involvement@utrgv.edu.

“We want them to feel like it is their event,” she said. “This event will always be growing with the ideas that students provide to us, so we definitely want them to feel like they belong here and that the university is also part of the community.”

For more information on the Charreada and the Mr. Amigo presentation, visit www.utrgv.edu/charreada.





Legends

EDINBURG

Specials
available
for a limited
time

Legends Edinburg blends contemporary style and luxury amenities with rich Texas tradition. Located just steps from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. One, two and four-bedroom apartments are available. Luxury interior and exterior amenities address every student's need.

WE HAVE IT ALL!
You're going to love life at Legends Edinburg!



Sombbrero Festival[®] 2018

during Charro Days



THURSDAY

February 22, 2018

MAIN STAGE

3pm - 4:15pm	LFHS
4:30pm - 6pm	Conjunto Halcon
6:10 - 7:40pm	Amos De La Noche
8:00 - 9:30pm	Grupo Risueno
	Sonora 100% Puro Dinamita de Anaidita
10:00 - 12am	Grupo Pesado

BIG TENT

6pm - 7:30pm	The Sweethearts
8pm - 9:30pm	Rob Gracia Band
10pm - 12am	Metal Shop Tx

FREE KIDS RIDES & ADMISSION THE FIRST 3 HOURS EACH DAY. REGULAR ADMISSION \$10. CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ADMITTED FREE WITH AN ADULT.

FRIDAY

February 23, 2018

MAIN STAGE

1pm - 2:15pm	Army Band
2:20pm - 3:30pm	J.T. Canales Elementary Conjunto Band
3:30pm - 4:45pm	The Roches Band
5pm - 6:10pm	Grupo Inevitable
6:30pm - 8pm	Ruben De La Cruz y Su Conjunto
8:30 - 10pm	El Poder Del Norte
10:30pm - 12am	Duelo

BIG TENT

12pm - 12am	DJ Edward
11am - 3pm	Kids Sing-Off
3pm - 4:30pm	Lost Puppies Band
5pm - 6:30pm	Tim Gonzalez (2-time NIMA award Winner)
7pm - 9pm	Clarity
9pm - 10pm	Chili Cook-Off
10pm - 12am	Winners Announced
	Back In Black
	AC/DC Tribute Band

SATURDAY

February 24, 2018

MAIN STAGE

5pm - 6pm	Grito Contest
6:30pm - 8pm	Marcos Orozco
8:30pm - 10pm	Little Joe y La Familia
10:30pm - 12am	Ramon Ayala y Sus Bravos Del Norte

BIG TENT

11:00am	Wreckless Texas
1:00pm	Chris Rivera Band
3:00pm	Solid Riff
5:00pm	Army Band
6:45pm	Costume and Beard Contest
7:45pm	Matt & The Herdsmen
10:00pm	Blaze of Glory: The Bon Jovi Experience



Go to: www.sombbrerofestival.com for our full Events Schedule.