



Accessibility issues on the Brownsville campus addressed



Luis Martinez Santillano/THE RIDER

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

As of Aug. 23, the university's micro mobility program, VOLT, is now providing Call Stop services to individuals who have disabilities.

Students with disabilities can call in to request a pickup, according to Ian Chavez, UTRGV's assistant director of Transportation.

The Call Stop service is being provided to the Brownsville campus specifically because of heavy traffic at the university driveway, Chavez said.

"Anybody who can park there legally, right, in the ADA spot, can request a ride from there," he said. "We pick you up from that point right there, and we take you to one of our designated stops."

The designated stops are located along the pink and

yellow VOLT circuits in Brownsville and can be found online at utrgv.edu/volt.

"It is going to be treated kind of like a call stop," Chavez said. "A call stop, basically, [is not on] one of our frequent routes, [but] our passengers can request a pickup."

Information about the service is now posted by

See **ACCESSIBILITY**, Page 8

Multiple assault cases on Edinburg campus



Fatima Gamez Lopez/The Rider Photo Illustration

Fatima Gamez Lopez

SPANISH EDITOR

In the last two weeks, two cases of sexual assault and assaults by contact were reported on the Edinburg campus, causing fear among students.

At 2:08 p.m. Sept. 17, a student reported having been sexually assaulted in the Heritage Hall dormitory, according to a UTRGV Police Department Admin Report. The victim identified the subject as a current student. UTRGV detectives detained the subject. The victim declined to prosecute but all the physical evidence was recovered and will be processed should the victim choose to prosecute at a later time. The case was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

About 3:42 p.m. Sept. 22, the Police Department received a report of a sexual assault in the Heritage Hall dormitory. The victim reported that she was sexually

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VOTE READY

UTRGV GETS STUDENTS REGISTERED

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

The Civic Engagement Alliance and Vaqueros Vote celebrated National Voter Registration Day last Tuesday in the Student Union on both campuses.

Today is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 election, according to votetexas.gov.

Vaqueros Vote is a nonpartisan coalition "of UTRGV faculty, staff, students and nonpartisan community organizations," according to the Student Activities webpage.

"It has sort of fallen into place where Vaqueros Vote and the CEA have fallen into the same bubble," said Osvaldo Grimaldo, president of the CEA, a student-led, nonpartisan organization made possible through Student Activities. "It has allowed for us to work together and collaboratively create these voter registration events."

The CEA's three main areas of focus are voter registration, education and community engagement, he said.

"So, National Voter Registration Day is a holiday that we celebrate every single



Verilu Infante/THE RIDER

Osvaldo Grimaldo, president of the Civic Engagement Alliance, speaks to kinesiology senior Rene Cuellar about the organization and the importance of National Voter Registration Day. The CEA handed out free food and T-shirts during a voter registration drive last Tuesday on the Student Union East Patio on the Edinburg campus.

year here," Grimaldo said. "It's like one of the final pushes before the end of the registration deadline here in Texas."

This is the first year the CEA and Vaqueros Vote offer another method of registration using TurboVote.

"[TurboVote] is an online application that we have here at UTRGV ... that allows you to electronically register to vote, to a certain extent," he said.

Part of the application will be made available online via TurboVote for anyone who

chooses to use it.

"Texas laws don't allow for people to register to vote straightforward online, so it is the easiest three-fourths of the registration process online," Grimaldo said. "That [final] one-fourth you can

See **VOTE**, Page 3

Grant for behavioral health consultant training

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The UTRGV School of Medicine has received a \$480,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration to increase the number of health-care professionals who understand and can practice integrated primary care behavioral health.

John Ronnau, senior associate dean for Community Health Partnerships with the UTRGV School of Medicine and director of the Area Health Education Centers programs, is the principal investigator for the grant.

"One of the strengths of the grant is that it is a partnership at several levels," Ronnau said. "So, certainly the federal government is providing the funding. UTRGV is very committed, the School of

Medicine is committed, several colleges and departments within UTRGV are collaborating to make this happen."

He said the grant will provide stipends to graduate students who are recruited from four different disciplines. The students will be educated and trained to provide integrated behavioral health to work in one of the Area Health Education Center

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Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

John Ronnau, senior associate dean for Community Health Partnerships with the UTRGV School of Medicine and director of the Area Health Education Centers programs, stands outside the UT Health RGV John Austin Peña Memorial Center last Wednesday. Ronnau is the principal investigator for a federal grant the university received to increase the number of behavioral health consultants.

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
Fill Out Your FAFSA
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assistance to
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Free Application
for Federal Student Aid at the U Central computer lab area located on the first floor of the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus and at the Tower on the Brownsville campus. U Central hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. The application period for FAFSA opened last Friday.

Represent UTRGV
The **Student Government Association** is seeking students for Apply Texas, Financial Aid, Learning Technology and Texas Transfer for Advisory Committees on the **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**. Visit V Link for more information on how to apply. The application deadline is Oct. 15.

Spook to Vote
The **Civic Engagement Alliance** will host a **voter registration event** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Union on the Brownsville campus and from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Edinburg campus to celebrate the **last day to register to vote** in the **Nov. 2 election**.

Turning Point USA
Turning Point USA at UTRGV, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that educates and organizes students on the benefits of freedom, fiscal responsibility and small government, will conduct an **informational and recruitment session** from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. They will distribute stickers, posters and buttons from the national organization.

Thriving Study Halls
The **Women in STEM Programs** organization will host a **virtual study hall** from 3:30 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Assignment assistance and studying motivation may be provided. RSVP is

available on V Link.

Rhythm Night
The **Student Union** and the **Rhythm Room** will provide **free dance lessons** during **Rhythm Night**, scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Delight Ministries
Delight Ministries Brownsville, a **Christ-centered community for college women**, will host an event to learn more about Delight from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on V Link.

Tuesday
Edinburg Mayoral Forum
The Office of Student Activities will host an **Edinburg Mayoral Forum**, featuring candidates **Ramiro Garza Jr. and Gilbert Enriquez**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank Student Union Theater. For more information or to RSVP to receive the Zoom link, contact the **Civic Engagement Alliance** at CEA@utrgv.edu.

'Mean Girls' PhotoBooth
The **Student Union** will host a **"Mean Girls" PhotoBooth** from noon to 1 p.m. in Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus and Wednesday in the Student Union's Commons on the Edinburg campus.

Winds Concert
The **Patron of the Arts** will host the **UTRGV Wind Orchestra and Symphonic Winds concert** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Complex in Brownsville. Admission is free. The concert is part of the **Student Performance Series**.

Wednesday
The People Series
The **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** will host an educational series from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom to learn about the **history of the LGBTQIA+ community**. RSVP is available on V Link.

Campus Climate Survey Results
Town halls are scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday for employees and

Thursday for students on Microsoft Teams to share the **results of the Transforming Our World Campus Climate Survey** and assign a campus climate liaison to every department. The event is presented by **ModernThink**, which will meet afterward with each division's leadership and college dean to discuss results.

Chess Night
The **Chess Club** will host **chess night** from 5 to 6 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building 2.207 on the Edinburg campus and from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday in Sabal Hall 2.102 on the Brownsville campus.

Thursday
Taste of the Union
The **Student Union** will host the **Taste of the Union** from noon to 1 p.m. on the Student Union Commons in Edinburg and in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. Those who purchase a food item will receive a free product and swag from Sodexo.

Online Concert
School of Music Assistant Professor Diana Seitz, on violin; Bowery Trio founding member **Esther Seitz**, on cello; and concert pianist **Anastasia Dedik** will present a classical and romantic chamber recital featuring works of Mozart, Rachmaninov, Turing and Pärt at 7 p.m. via online on the Patron of the Arts YouTube channel.

Saturday
Midterm Relaxation
The **Bilingual Education Student Organization** will conduct an online event from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for students to have a relaxed evening with peaceful music, painting and coloring. RSVP is available on V Link.

Sunday
Belated Beethoven
The **UTRGV Symphony Orchestra** returns with **Beethoven's** light-hearted **Symphony No. 8**. at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Complex in Brownsville. Admission is free.

--Compiled by Fatima Gamez Lopez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Sept. 23 and 28.



Sept. 23 6:12 p.m.: A student reported that while boarding a charter bus at the Main Building on the Brownsville campus, she saw a man she had filed a report against with the Brownsville Police Department in 2019 who boarded the same bus. An officer obtained the man's identification and confirmed he was a current student. There was no contact between the students during the ride from Brownsville to the Edinburg campus. She wanted to document the incident and was provided information on the available services at UTRGV.

Sept. 24 4:10 p.m.: An officer responded to the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to a

housing coordinator reporting the odor of marijuana coming from one of the rooms. The student resident was not present in the apartment when the coordinator conducted a health and safety check at the residence. The coordinator reported finding a tin can with rolled cigarettes. The case is under investigation.

Sept. 25 9:56 p.m.: An officer responded to the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus in reference to an alcohol violation called in by a resident assistant. Upon arrival, officers made contact with five individuals who were minors in the apartment. A visitor, who is not affiliated with UTRGV, was issued a criminal trespass warning. The incident will be handled administratively through Student Rights and Responsibilities. The alcoholic

beverages were photographed and disposed of on scene.

Sept. 28 11:38 a.m.: A student reported another student had taken her spiral notebook after she had forgotten it in class on Sept. 27. She reported she had not been able to retrieve her notebook from the student and requested assistance. An officer made contact with the student, who returned the notebook to the police department without incident.

6:53 p.m.: A student reported that while at the University Library on the Edinburg campus on Sept. 14, a student had made her feel uncomfortable when he touched her thigh without her consent. The incident will be referred to Students Rights and Responsibilities for further review.

--Compiled by Valeria Henderson

GRANT

Continued from Page 1

(AHEC) Primary Care Clinics.

Asked what four different disciplines will be involved, Ronnau replied, "One of them is clinical mental health counseling, which is in the College of Education [and P-16 Integration]; the second one is rehabilitation counseling, which is in the College of Health Professions; the third is clinical psychology, which is the College of Liberal Arts and social work, which is in the College of Health Professions. And, also, psychiatric residents will

be involved."

He said students from those four disciplines will be recruited by their faculty in their respective department.

Ronnau said students who are not recruited but are interested can apply through their department. Registration will open later this semester for students to be enrolled by January 2022.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for a variety of levels. One, of course, is an exciting opportunity to provide an additional type of service to people in the Valley, people who need it," he said.

"It's also an opportunity to work in interdisciplinary teams with students from other health professions and, of course, as well as medical providers. And that's the direction that health care is going in our society, making it interdisciplinary. And it's also an opportunity to practice and learn about a new model of health-care delivery, which is integrated primary behavioral health, which may very well turn into a very exciting job opportunity, because there's going to be more and more jobs that need this kind of skill set and knowledge."

New dance club in the works



PHOTO COURTESY BLAKE MITCHELL

Prospective members of BLatin, an upcoming dance club, learn the basic steps of bachata during an unofficial meeting Sept. 20 in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus.

Valeria Henderson
THE RIDER

UTRGV students can learn salsa, bachata and more with a new dance club, BLatin, which is expected to come to fruition by the end of October.

The idea first came up between Blake Mitchell, president and creator, and Magaly Romero, dance trainer for BLatin.

The initiative was attempted before but did not last due to COVID-19 regulations and no in-person meetings, according to Mitchell.

Asked what motivated him to begin the process of starting up a new club, Mitchell replied that BLatin is not just about dance but also introducing people to a healthy, productive social environment.

"I want to provide a community to people and as well as give back to the community that I am a part of and I've grown to love," he said.

Around 12 to 15 consistent members are anticipated to join BLatin the first semester after the club is official. Mitchell is hoping to grow the club from 50 to 100 students.

Facial coverings are recommended for those who are not vaccinated.

Mitchell, an environmental science senior, hopes that BLatin will grow into an established organization at UTRGV that takes part in flash mobs, choreographies and performance showcases. He also hopes for BLatin to host its own balls and dances in the future.

Outside of UTRGV, BLatin will be

working with Revival of Cultural Arts Scholars, a nonprofit organization.

"They have always given back to their community and they specify in low-income, low-opportunity families to provide them a fine arts outlet," Mitchell said. "So, we want to give back to them and do a couple events to raise as much money for them as possible."

Practices will take place at 7:30 p.m. every Monday in La Sala on the Brownsville campus. New students will be required to pay \$40 dues per semester.

To join the club, students do not need any prior dance experience.

"You would simply need to be open to new experiences," Mitchell said. "And as long as you keep an open mind, that's the only thing you need to be a part of it."

Once the club is official, there will be monthly meetings in Edinburg. Edinburg members will be required to attend a Brownsville practice once a month.

"It's honestly a really good life skill to have in general," he said. "Not necessarily being a good dancer, but the experiences and the mentality that dance can give you, especially from a social aspect and a professional aspect, can affect the way

that you see life forever."

Any UTRGV student who has a certain interest or passion can create a club, said April MunozGonzalez, program coordinator for the Center for Student Involvement.

One requirement to create a club is that the group has to have at least five currently enrolled students who are expressing interest for the specific group, MunozGonzalez said.

After it has at least five students, the group will submit the form of "Request for temporary permission to organize." This initiates the process, MunozGonzalez said.

This form notifies the Student Involvement office that the student wants to start a group and what it is based on. This form can be found in the Center for Student Involvement V Link page.

Once they have at least five students and have submitted the form they will need to identify an adviser. The adviser must be a full-time faculty or staff member, employed with UTRGV and not an undergraduate student. The adviser does not need to be related or in a work-related position to the club or group. It can be anyone, MunozGonzalez said.

"Not necessarily being a good dancer, but the experiences and the mentality that dance can give you, especially from a social aspect and a professional aspect, can affect the way that you see life forever."

*--Blake Mitchell
BLatin president and creator*

VOTE
Continued from Page 1

mail out to [the elections office]."

The event offered free UTRGV merch, food, music and, of course, a chance to register to vote.

"Initially, it just started off as something small in the Student Union," he said. "We had imagined 'OK, we'll just give away a few UTRGV merch to get people's attention and register people to vote or verify their voter registration.'"

Vaqueros Vote and Student Activities then reached out to the CEA to propose a bigger event, Grimaldo said.

"The bigger the better, you know, to get Vaqueros civically engaged," he said. "So it became a lot bigger, which I'm really happy about, and it's allowing us to get a larger participation out of our UTRGV student body."

Plans for the event started in the summer and made it the CEA's biggest celebration of National Voter Registration Day with over 300 people attending and about 250 registered to vote.

Jade Mendieta, an engineering technology sophomore, heard about the event on Instagram and V Link and attended last Tuesday.

"I think it's awesome," Mendieta replied when asked about her thoughts on the CEA's mission to get students involved civically. "I think we need to be more aware of how strong our voice is."

She said everyone's opinions are important, and diversity strengthens the community.

"Once we hear everyone's voices, we become stronger together," Mendieta said.

Magdalena Alfonso, a biomedical

science junior, said it was her second time attending a Vaqueros Vote event.

"We were just hanging out in La Sala [on the Brownsville campus] and then we noticed," Alfonso replied when asked how she heard about the event.

The junior attended to verify that she was registered to vote.

"I think it's very nice," Alfonso said about the services offered at the event.

"As students, sometimes we don't have time to go to some place to do that stuff, so we can have it here in the school."

Psychology sophomore Adelina Nieto also saw the event while on campus and decided to check it out.

"This is my first time since the pandemic and all," Nieto replied when asked if she has attended a Vaqueros Vote event before. "It feels nice. It feels very social."

Two-week steady drop in COVID cases at UTRGV



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Midway through the Fall 2021 semester, UTRGV reported 13 additional COVID-19 cases between Sept. 17 and 23, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infectious Disease Committee at UTRGV, said among the 13 were eight students, four staff and one faculty member.

As previously reported by The Rider, UTRGV had been reporting cases above 20 for two consecutive weeks.

The week of Sept. 10 through the 16, the university dipped below the 20 mark with 17 cases reported, the first time since July 30 that the cases at UTRGV had decreased.

The downward trend continued for the week of Sept. 17 through the 23, with only 13 cases reported.

UTRGV updates the number of cases reported for campus individuals weekly through the Confirmed Cases Dashboard. The numbers on this website are provided by the university COVID-19 Response Team.

Arney said no UTRGV students were quarantined on campus the week of Sept. 17 to 23.

As previously reported by The Rider, UTRGV has provided 50 rooms in separate wings of the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus and in the Village Apartments in Edinburg for quarantining students.

As of last Wednesday, UT Health RGV had administered 45,150 tests and 86,139 vaccine doses, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

Hidalgo and Cameron counties continue to show an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Hidalgo County reported an additional 125 confirmed cases last Wednesday, raising the county's total to 114,847, according to its website.

As of last Wednesday, the county reported 10 additional deaths, raising its toll to 3,327. All 10 were unvaccinated individuals.

Last Tuesday, Cameron County Public Health reported an additional 75 COVID-19 cases, raising its total to 52,013.

The county also reported 116 recovered, raising the total to 47,704, according to a news release.

Cameron County did not report any additional COVID-19 related deaths Tuesday. The number of deaths total 1,898.

Nieto is registered to vote and said she was happy to be at an in-person event on campus.

Vaqueros Vote and the CEA will continue its mission to engage students in the community.

"We work together essentially to get out the vote, make people want to vote and make people want to register to vote," Grimaldo said. "We're really excited to get this mission going."

He wants the student body at UTRGV to know that Vaqueros Vote and the CEA are here to help and welcome anyone aiming to become more involved.

"Always be civically engaged," Grimaldo said. "And always vote in whatever election it may be--small, big, large, local, national, school board or school elections--whatever it may be ... vote."



HISPANIC CHALLENGES

On Sept. 28, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What is the biggest challenge a Hispanic student may face?" The results are shown below.

facebook 

LANGUAGE BARRIERS 15

BEING 1ST GEN 12

FAMILY PRESSURE 10

CAREER CHOICES 4


twitter

6 FAMILY PRESSURE

1 LANGUAGE BARRIERS

1 CAREER CHOICES

1 NOT APPLICABLE

Instagram 

FAMILY PRESSURE 17

LANGUAGE BARRIERS 12

CAREER CHOICES 8

NOT APPLICABLE 2

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE
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A borderline opinion



Finding sense of self amid immigration challenges



**Luis
Martinez
Santillano**
THE RIDER

Immigration is a common topic within the Hispanic community in the Rio Grande Valley and is in no way a discussion that is off limits. But what is never brought up is how it affects our families' lives and sense of self in the long run.

Most families who immigrate to the United States only have in mind how much of a positive impact moving to the United States will have on their future.

As a member of an immigrant family, it is normal to find myself questioning if my actions and decisions are worth my family's sacrifice to come live in the United States. It is difficult to stray from the collective belief that we must stick together in order to succeed because if you mess up, the whole collective will be affected by it.

I question if my career pathway will satisfy my family's needs. Is it even the right career pathway? Am I doing enough for the people in my family? Will my efforts ever be enough? Getting stuck

on these questions causes a lot of stress for immigrants who have to build a future, not only for themselves but for their families as well.

I am just a 21-year-old. There's probably some 12-year-old in middle school worrying if he or she is doing good and will have a future in this country, or a parent who just got home from work and tomorrow will repeat the same thing and every day after that and will question if this is the life he or she expected on arrival to the United States. But it is OK if they are miserable, hate every aspect of life, have no drive other than work because at least their kids are happy, right?

Maybe there is even a pregnant immigrant woman hiding in the tall grass on the riverbank of the Rio Grande on the way to the United States without knowing how many problems she is going to have to put up with once she reaches her destination. As for the child, it is not even born yet and the family has already put the weight of their entire future on the kid's shoulders.

So many expectations and responsibilities are placed on the shoulders of immigrants, young and old, sometimes not even born

yet. And if we want to do better as a community, we must speak up about how we feel about these problems. We tend to forget that we are individuals and that although we must deal with issues of the collective, we must first resolve our internal problems in order to perform better as a collective.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a special time for our community. We celebrate our roots and traditions, but we should also take time to consider how these ideas that make up our persona have affected our sense of self and understand that we are not our problems, but rather what represents us is how we overcome them. I thought that by the end of writing this, I would have figured out how to overcome the pressure of these problems and perhaps provide a solution for other people to overcome them, but I do not have it nor do I think I ever will. But if you know someone who you think is going through the same stress of immigration, talk to them and, maybe, then the path laid down for us by immigration will not feel as draining and frustrating.

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.

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Misión de llevar estudiantes a las urnas



Natalie Lapsley/FOTOS RIDER

La estudiante de primer año de ciencias de la salud integrada Karime Araujo (izquierda), la estudiante de primer año de psicología Luisa González y la estudiante de primer año no declarada America Ortiza recolectan mercancía gratis antes de verificar si están registradas para votar en el campus de Brownsville el martes pasado. Las estudiantes escucharon por primera vez acerca del evento celebrando el Día Nacional del Registro de Votantes a través del grupo de Facebook de UTRGV.

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

Vaqueros Votan y la Alianza del Compromiso Cívico organizaron un evento en ambos campus el martes pasado en celebración del Día Nacional del Registro de Votantes.

Los Vaqueros Votan es una coalición de profesores y profesionales de UTRGV, según Osvaldo Grimaldo, presidente de la Alianza del Compromiso Cívico.

La Alianza de Compromiso Cívico es una organización no partidista dirigida por estudiantes que se hizo posible a través de Actividades Estudiantiles, dijo Grimaldo.

“Ha caído en un lugar donde Vaqueros Votan y la CEA han caído en la misma burbuja”, dijo. “Nos ha permitido trabajar juntos y crear en colaboración estos eventos de registro de votantes”.

Las tres áreas principales de enfoque de la CEA son el registro de votantes, la educación y la participación comunitaria, dijo Grimaldo.

“Entonces, el día nacional de registro de votantes es un feriado que celebramos todos los años aquí”, dijo. “Es como uno de los últimos empujones antes de que finalice la fecha límite de registro aquí en Texas”.

Hoy es la fecha límite para registrarse a votar en la elección general que se llevará a cabo el 2 de noviembre.

Este es el primer año que CEA y Vaqueros Votan ofrecen otro método de registro de votantes usando TurboVote.

“Es una aplicación en línea que tenemos aquí en UTRGV... que le permite registrarse electrónicamente para votar hasta cierto punto”, dijo Grimaldo.

Parte de la aplicación estará disponible en línea a través de TurboVote para cualquier persona que elija usarla.

“Las leyes de Texas no permiten que las personas se registren para votar directamente en línea, por lo que son las tres cuartas partes más fáciles del proceso de registro en línea”, dijo. “Esa

[última] cuarta parte se puede enviar por correo [a la oficina de elecciones]”.

El evento contó con mercancía, comida, música gratis de UTRGV y por supuesto, la oportunidad de registrarse para votar.

“Inicialmente, comenzó como algo pequeño en la Unión de Estudiantes”, dijo Grimaldo. “Habíamos imaginado, ‘Está bien, regalaremos algunos productos de UTRGV para llamar la atención de la gente y registrarlos para votar o verificar su registro de votantes”.

Vaqueros Votan y las Actividades Estudiantiles se acercaron a la CEA para proponer un evento más grande, dijo.

“Cuanto más grande, mejor, ya sabes, para lograr que los Vaqueros se comprometan cívicamente”, dijo Grimaldo. “Entonces, se hizo mucho más grande, lo que me alegra mucho, y nos permite obtener una mayor participación de nuestro cuerpo estudiantil de UTRGV”.

Los planes comenzaron en verano y convirtieron el evento en la celebración más grande de la CEA del Día Nacional de Registro de Votantes hasta el momento con más de 300 asistentes y 250 inscritas para votar.

Jade Mendieta, estudiante de segundo año de tecnología de ingeniería, asistió al evento el martes pasado. Se enteró del evento en Instagram y V Link.

“Creo que es increíble”, respondió Mendieta cuando se le preguntó sobre la misión de la CEA de involucrar a los estudiantes cívicamente. “Creo que debemos ser más conscientes de lo fuerte que es nuestra voz”.

Ella cree que las opiniones de todos son importantes y la diversidad fortalece nuestra comunidad.

“Una vez que escuchamos las voces de todos, juntos nos volvemos más fuertes”, dijo Mendieta.

Magdalena Alfonso, estudiante de tercer año de ciencias biomédicas, dijo que era la segunda vez que asistía a un evento Vaqueros Votan.

“Estábamos pasando el rato en La Sala en Brownsville y luego nos dimos cuenta”, respondió Alfonso cuando se le preguntó cómo se enteró del evento.

La joven asistió al evento para verificar que ya estaba registrada para votar.

feliz de estar en un evento en persona en el campus.

Vaqueros Votan y la CEA continuarán su misión de lograr que los estudiantes se involucren más en su comunidad.

“Trabajamos juntos esencialmente para sacar el voto, hacer que la gente



Jose Raul Ruiz (derecha), vicepresidente de votación para el Alianza del Compromiso Cívico, le da mercancía a Adelina Nieto, estudiante de segundo año de psicología, el martes pasado en el campus de Brownsville. Vaqueros Votan trabaja con la Alianza del Compromiso Cívico para brindar eventos como estos a los estudiantes de UTRGV.

“Creo que es muy lindo”, dijo Alfonso sobre los servicios ofrecidos en el evento. “Como estudiantes, a veces no tenemos tiempo para ir a algún lugar para hacer esas cosas, así que podemos tenerlo aquí en la escuela”.

La estudiante de segundo año de psicología, Adelina Nieto, también vio el evento mientras estaba en el campus y decidió comprobarlo.

“Esta es mi primera vez desde la pandemia y todo eso”, respondió Nieto cuando se le preguntó si había asistido a un evento de Vaqueros Votan antes. “Se siente agradable. Se siente muy social”.

Nieto está registrada para votar y

quiera votar y hacer que la gente quiera registrarse para votar”, dijo Grimaldo. “Estamos muy emocionados de poner en marcha esta misión”.

Quiere que el alumnado de la UTRGV sepa que Vaqueros Votan y la CEA están aquí para ayudar y dar la bienvenida a cualquiera que desee participar más.

“Siempre participe cívicamente”, dijo Grimaldo. “Y siempre vote en las elecciones que sean: pequeñas, grandes, locales, nacionales, de la junta escolar o de la escuela. Sea lo que sea ... ¡vota!”

--Traducido por Fatima Gamez Lopez

Art exhibit shines light on loss of migrant lives



PHOTO COURTESY GINA PALACIOS

Kimberly Sandoval, an art and design graduate assistant, and Art and Design Assistant Professor Gina Palacios conduct an activity in which participants tag a map on the wall of the “Hostile Terrain 94” exhibit, showing where each migrant died. The juried exhibition opens today in the Rusteberg Art Gallery on the Texas Southmost College campus.

Kaitlyn Polvado
A&E EDITOR

“Hostile Terrain 94,” an exhibit memorializing the lives of migrants who have died trying to cross the Mexico-United States border, premieres today and

continues through Nov. 12 at the Rusteberg Art Gallery on the Brownsville campus. The exhibit is also featured at the UTRGV library on the Edinburg campus, which premiered Sept. 15 and runs through Nov. 19.

Undocumented Migration

Project is a nonprofit collective with a mission to raise awareness about migrants who have lost their lives trying to cross the border. UMP hosted around 150 exhibits in 2020, according to its website. Sarah Rowe, an assistant professor at UTRGV in the

HT94 has produced globally, it leaves the impression that the installation has had a major reaction from those who have gone to visit it. People have the opportunity to connect with the issue. People who have crossed also

Sociology and Anthropology Department who helped set up the exhibit along with other faculty members, explains the premise of the exhibit and why it exists.

“[There is] a policy that was passed in 1994 called Prevention, which was supposed to increase Border Patrol presence in more populated areas in order to stop undocumented crossings,” Rowe said. “This pushed people into crossing along deserts with very rugged, difficult terrain even under the best circumstances. With the large span of exhibits that

have the opportunity to write a message on the backs of the tags they fill out.”

Jason DeLeon, an archaeologist and founder of UMP, publicly stated his interest in the results of undocumented crossings and the laws that coincide with them in his book titled, “Land of Open Graves.”

UMP began when DeLeon was working in the field during an archaeology trip and found the remains of a young woman. After that, his focus shifted from what people could materially find about immigrants to their stories about crossing.

DeLeon will be doing a Q&A session via Zoom with UTRGV students and faculty at 6 p.m. Oct. 14 to discuss UMP and the exhibit.

“I hope people will have a moment to visit the exhibit and reflect,” Rowe said. “I think a lot of times, immigration policy gets polarized and it can, unfortunately, be all too easy to forget about the people that were a part of the process. If people can start to recognize the human cost of the [Prevention] policy, they might [advocate] for a better solution to the problem.”

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

Aries-Everyone has a hidden desire or purpose they feel the need to fulfill. As the leader of the zodiac, it is no surprise that for Aries, your calling is to lead and live life to the fullest.

Taurus-As a Taurus, you crave security, both economically and in your relationships. Careerwise, you may not always go for the job you enjoy but rather the one that will fund the lifestyle you want. You often play it safe when choosing a partner, being sure to decide with your head and your heart.

Gemini-Your hidden desire as a Gemini is to live a life of variety. You do not feel fulfilled when in a routine. Jobs that can provide you with a constant change of scenery and different challenges are best suited for you.

Cancer-You have little to no trust when it comes to matters of the heart. Because of this your true desire in life is to feel safe emotionally, spiritually and romantically. You will feel most fulfilled when you have a partner who can provide the reassurance you need.

Leo-As a natural born extrovert, your life's desire is to be respected by your peers and praised by those with a status you admire. You should seek jobs where growth and validation are encouraged; otherwise, you will feel unappreciated.

Virgo-For all the meticulous energy you put into your work to distract yourself, your true hidden desire is simply to love and be loved in return. Investing your energy in fulfilling this desire might make you feel more complete.

Libra-As the only sign in the zodiac to be symbolized by an inanimate object,

the scales, you are known for often teeter tottering. Because of this, it should come as no surprise that your hidden desire is to finally find balance and clarity in your life. Perhaps it is time to finally listen to the voice of reason in your life. This person might be able to get you to achieve that balance.

Scorpio-You are a tortured soul. Above all, you desire to overcome the obstacles that have been holding you down for so long. You are forced to constantly adapt to new situations and because of this, you crave permanency in your life. Perhaps forgiving those who hurt you would be a good first step to take to achieve this goal. Once you do this, you will be ready to find your forever love.

Sagittarius-You are a humanitarian at heart with a hidden desire to make a difference. You feel most fulfilled when you know what you are doing has a positive impact on others. A job that requires great kindness and giving, such as social work, would best suit you.

Capricorn-For much of your life, you have felt like the black sheep in the family. At the end of the day, your hidden desire is to be admired and accepted by your friends and family.

Aquarius-As an Aquarius, your greatest fear is being ordinary. You strive to be the best at the things you care about. Your not-so-hidden desire in life is to be unique and respected for that boldness. To achieve your calling, pursue the things with purpose and do not be afraid to wear, say and do what you want.

Pisces-As one of the most daydreaming signs, your hidden desire is to live your dreams and turn your fantasies into a reality. To achieve your calling, surround yourself with people whose duality complements your imagination with concrete actions.

Cartoon-ish Hijinksby Ariael Ortiz



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THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

7 P.M. SATURDAY VS. LAMAR UNIVERSITY (CONFERENCE, AWAY)



MEN'S SOCCER

7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY (AWAY)

7 P.M. SUNDAY VS. NO. 19 GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY (CONFERENCE, AWAY)



VOLLEYBALL

6 P.M. THURSDAY VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (CONFERENCE, AWAY)

1 P.M. SATURDAY VS. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY (CONFERENCE, AWAY)



Hockey for everyone, even in South Texas



Omar E. Zapata/THE RIDER PHOTOS

RGV Roller Co-Founder and President Nathaniel Mata (left) passes the puck to Alejandro Espinoza, a South Texas College computer science senior, last Tuesday night at the McAllen Sports Park Hockey Pavilion.

Omar E. Zapata
SPORTS REPORTER

RGV Roller is a nonprofit organization that aims to promote healthy habits and exercise through hockey and roller skating, all while trying to make it accessible to everyone in the Rio Grande Valley.

Nathaniel Mata, co-founder and president of RGV Roller, told The Rider that the nonprofit started in late 2019.

“RGV Roller was the idea to get kids in the community and the general public and also turn that hockey group that had already been there and do something stronger and more official,” Mata said. “And just make sure that hockey continues after we’ve lost the ice rink and Killer Bees and all those things, just to make sure that there’s an opportunity for everybody to have a chance to play hockey and skate.”

Rafe Fowler, co-founder of RGV Roller, has played hockey for about two decades since third grade and said the nonprofit is the best thing that could have happened to hockey in the Valley.

“Because of the low overhead, the city’s willingness to help us, you know, the insurance that’s available, for me, just everything’s come together to make it really really low cost and make it, you know, an effective learning environment for new players, which is really the most important part,” Fowler said.

A hashtag that is used by the NHL is #Hockeyisforeveryone, and Mata said he wants RGV Roller to embody that message.

“We’re trying to teach the skills of hockey and the skills of skating, and, you know, try to put some good, like, messaging and community behind it,” he said.

The organization offers a variety of programs, from a development league for those interested in trying hockey, to an adult league called the

South Texas Inline Hockey Association (STIHA) for experienced players.

Mata said they have 48 members across the two leagues.

To participate, there is a fee of \$40 to \$60 for the season, depending on where you live and the league, as well as \$50 for USA Roller Sports Insurance. Participants must have their own equipment or ask about RGV Roller’s gear-lending program.

STIHA starts Oct. 14 and the development league started Sept. 19 but has rolling enrollment

to have, you know, sticks to lend and skates to lend and free opportunities as much as we can and low cost as much as we can.”

Mata said the RGV Roller vision is to go into underserved communities, *colonias* and conduct hockey clinics there.

“We’re also, like, really excited for our youth programs,” he said. “But that’s the thing that kind of takes a little bit more work as far as we need donations so we can get insurance. ... But that’s the one that is on the horizon.”

Maybe one day people will just come out and get exposed to hockey and just fall in love with it, Mata said.

Alejandro Espinoza, a South Texas College computer science senior, told The Rider he started playing hockey with the nonprofit about four months ago after he saw a post about it on Facebook.

Espinoza said he grew up skating around his neighborhood in McAllen with his brother, going to the old ice rink and going with friends to Fantasyland but stopped skating for about 10 years before picking it up again.

“It’s been fun,” he said. “I had suffered from a knee injury, and I was sitting down for a couple years. So, this was my first time back actually doing physical activity.”

It is a welcoming environment, where everyone cares and looks out for each other, Espinoza said.

He said from never playing hockey in his life to now being a part of the development league, having a say in what works and what does not and being a part of the organization is great.

Fowler said his most favorite memory with the nonprofit was winning the league with his childhood friend and fellow hockey players he’s known for years.

“If there is any general interest, come out and meet the guys,” he said. “Come out, talk to a few people and see if it’s something you could be into.”



Tyler Lanoue (left) tries to steal the puck away from Ricardo Rosales while Bruno Arjona looks to help his teammate control possession last Tuesday night at the McAllen Sports Park Hockey Pavilion. The Hockey Pavilion is the only rink in the Rio Grande Valley for inline hockey.

with games scheduled on Sunday afternoons.

RGV Roller also has Friday Skate Nights for people who want to freely skate or play a quick game of hockey for free.

All of these programs are possible due to the McAllen Sports Park Hockey Pavilion, which Mata said is a gem for the city to have.

He said cities such as San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Laredo do not have a rink like this and that is why it is so special.

Mata said he has been a fan of hockey since he played for one year when he was 5 before moving to the Valley.

He understands it is an expensive sport and that is why he wants to fight financial barriers for the youth of the Valley to have an opportunity to play.

“We want to be able to give kids in all communities and all backgrounds a chance to play if they don’t have the funds,” Mata said. “We want to be able

ACCESSIBILITY

Continued from Page 1

Accessible Parking spots on the Brownsville campus.

“I want to say [it took] maybe about a month and a half in total to get the official signs,” Chavez said. “We had to go through different drafts and [work out] how to put this on there.”

The signs, which will be posted alongside Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signage, provide hours of operation and QR codes to the VOLT routes and website. The service phone number, 665-2036, is also listed.

Any calls for a pickup will be dispatched to an available VOLT driver, Chavez said. To request a pickup, individuals only need to provide their vehicle’s location, make, model and color to help the driver locate them.

This semester, there has already been one user for the service, he said.

“They weren’t in a wheelchair, but [not everyone] with a disability [has] to have that,” Chavez said. “It could be an invisible disability. ... She was very grateful when we dropped her off at the designated stop.”

He said the service is still a rather novel thing.

“We want to just try our best with the available resources we have right now,” Chavez said. “We’re not even at full 100% for the semester yet, and you already see the traffic going back and forth. We want to do our best to help out any way we [can] in addressing the congestion.”

The service was created after a student raised a concern regarding accessibility on the Brownsville campus.

ASSAULT

Continued from Page 1

assaulted between 2 and 3 p.m. Aug. 20 while the suspect was visiting her in her dormitory. The suspect is known and has been identified, according to the admin report. The suspect is a Hispanic male, 5 feet 8 inches in height, 150 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes and a light complexion.

The victim has chosen to participate in the pseudonym program and no further information will be released at this time, according to the report. The case was turned over to the Criminal Investigation Division.

Around 10:11 a.m. Sept. 29, while following up on an assault by contact that was reported at 6:53 p.m. Sept. 28, it was determined that an indecent assault had occurred on Sept. 14 between 2:30 and 3 p.m. on the second floor of the University Library, according to a timely warning notification sent by the Police Department. The victim also reported that at 7 p.m. Sept. 15, while walking on the Bronc Trail (by the dining area), the suspect touched her inappropriately (assault by contact). She found the contact offensive, according to the warning.

It was also determined that the same suspect was involved in two previous assault by contact reports: one at 11:42 p.m. Sept. 14 and another at 12:38 a.m. Sept. 15. Both occurred on the first floor of Unity Hall. In both reports, the victims found the contact offensive.

The suspect is known and has been identified. These cases have been turned over to the Criminal Investigation Division. The suspect was described as a black male, 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 7 inches in height, medium to heavy set, with dark hair, dark eyes and a dark complexion.

The Rider tried to contact University Police Chief Adan Cruz and Assistant Police Chief James Loya multiple times Friday regarding the incidents, but as of press time they had not returned calls.

Amanda Quintanilla, a victim services specialist with the University Police Department, said officers are always on patrol.

“When it comes to safety, the police

“I saw people struggling to get back and forth to class,” said Charles Dayton, a political science senior. “... I thought I was alone in this, like maybe I’m just the only one that’s having issues with this stuff, right? But I wasn’t, and I didn’t realize that until that Rider story.

“I was shocked by some of the comments considering it was 2020. I didn’t think, like, this kind of stuff still happened, this day in age, right? So, I was really surprised.”

Dayton is referring to a Feb. 3, 2020, story headlined “Accessibility Issues,” in which disabled students on campus spoke about the struggles they face. The story motivated him to alert the school to the issues through Vaqueros Report It.

“I’ve brought three issues to the university and all three took months, if not a year or more, to actually figure a solution out,” Dayton said. “And to me, that’s like the opposite of what Vaqueros Report It is supposed to be, right? It’s supposed to be an efficient, effective service for students to report things that they see issues with.”

It was not until measurements were taken to reveal how far disabled students had to travel that the requests started gaining attention, he said. The measurements were taken on campus using a compact measuring wheel he bought at Home Depot.

“Well, I would go to, like, Walmart and Home Depot and Target, and I would see, like, their disability parking was right by the door,” Dayton said. “I went actually to these places and measured myself. It normally was like between 50 and 100 feet to get in from parking to the door.”

try to be out there as much as they can,” Quintanilla said in an interview last Wednesday . “[The police] are on bike patrol on campus, they are on foot patrol, they are driving around 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

She said the officers have different shifts so someone is always watching the campus. The police also try to be visible so everyone knows they are there to keep them safe and help.

Margarita Gonzalez, a counseling specialist with the Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention, said the department offers assistance to victims.

“We are a confidential resource for victims of any crime,” said Gonzalez, who is a certified rehabilitation counselor and licensed professional counselor associate. “Whether it’s sexual assault, domestic violence, harassment or stalking, we provide resources for every individual.”

She said other services OVAVP offers to students, staff and faculty, if necessary, is to accompany them to places, such as hospitals or health clinics, depending on their needs.

Jesse Hernandez, a management sophomore, said it is not the easiest feeling to know that even in your own dormitory, you are not safe. He said most of the time he is with people he trusts.

Psychology freshman Odalys Saenz said she feels scared during her first semester living on campus because of the cases of sexual assault that have occurred recently in the dormitories.

“Well, I actually got self-defense tools in my backpack because I get really scared because it is my first year and anything can happen,” Saenz said. “I even don’t go out at night anymore because I’m afraid that something can happen to me.”

She said UTRGV should install police offices outside the dormitories to prevent incidents.

Bella Gomez, a junior nursing student, said UTRGV does take security precautions for the students living in the dormitories but there are times when she feels there is not much protection.

The Rider contacted Sergio Martinez, director of Residence Life and Housing, for comment. Martinez

It took around three or four hours to take all the measurements on campus, he said. The results showed distances on campus to be roughly four or five times longer in comparison than other public locations.

“I knew without those measurements no one would realize exactly how far people were walking because if you’re not disabled and you don’t have any problem with mobility, it’s no big deal, really,” he said. “I mean, it is a walk, don’t get me wrong. But, like, it doesn’t seem to be as big a deal.

Dayton said that having the measurements is what really shed light on the issue.

“I will give [Dean of Students Rebecca] Gadson credit, because I just don’t think she knew,” he said. “Because I think as soon as she saw the presentation and the measurements and everything, she was like, ‘Oh, you know, we have a problem here,’ and then things started happening very quickly after she got on board.”

Dayton, who is a disabled combat veteran himself, said that while he does not experience mobility issues, he has seen other veterans with prosthetics and in wheelchairs who struggle to travel on campus.

“Well, it gives me hope that the system, you know, finally something happened,” Dayton said. “I don’t want to put out a story out that destroys that. I don’t want students to turn sour on the situation. I want things to continue to get better and progress for the disabled community.”

Dayton said he is happy that the dean of students and Transportation has finally done something to address the issue, but he is disappointed in how

referred the newspaper to Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for Marketing and Communications.

Gonzales did not return phone calls to the newspaper as of press time Friday.

“They have precautions, they have people working,” Gomez said about the dormitories. “I work at the front and when that did happen, no one was really working at night yet. So, I don’t know. I guess sometimes there is not enough precautions, but I don’t know what else we can do [other] than having the police.”

She said she has lived in the dormitories at UTRGV for two years and explained how difficult it is for many students to talk about being sexually assaulted.

“It takes a lot of courage to speak out and let someone know what has happened to you,” Gomez said. “I feel like it is why not a lot of people report it. They are scared of the consequences of what can happen.”

For this reason, UTRGV provides services for students to make the decision to report at their own pace.

“Sometimes, people want to file charges, whether it’s sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking,” Quintanilla said. “Whatever it may be, it is the individual choice of every person.”

She said the CampusShield application is the best tool for students, staff and faculty to help them feel more secure on campus.

“Here, you can do anonymous reporting,” Quintanilla said. “If you see something on campus, you can report it through video, text or a picture.”

She said students who are in a situation where they do not feel comfortable and do not want to call to report can use CampusShield to report it to the Police Department. When they open the application, the police will be able to see where they are.

Gonzalez explained the process OVAVP follows in sexual assault, domestic violence, harassment or stalking cases.

“We never force the victim to report it when they come to our office,” she said. “This is a resource for them, if they choose to seek it out, because the victim goes through a lot during these

long it took for the information to get to them.

“There’s something in that process that isn’t quite right,” he said. “I have been talking about this for years.”

Chavez said a large-scale plan to address the situation is ideal, but that the university wanted to do something to address the issue in the meantime.

“What that large-scale plan is, I don’t exactly know,” Chavez said. “But I know it’s going to go beyond VOLT, hopefully, one day, to kind of address [these issues].”

VOLT will continue to offer the Call Stop service on the Brownsville campus alone, for now.

“Since it was conducted because of the primary concern of the university driveway, I don’t think Edinburg is one of our main targets right now,” Chavez said. “It hasn’t been brought up.”

The steps to implement services such as this one are different on each campus.

“In Brownsville, we are not 100% funded through [the] Federal Transit Administration,” Chavez said. “There’s more steps involved in Edinburg because of our funding structure.”

Because of this, any solutions pitched to Edinburg would need to be presented in a public forum where people can collaboratively come up with a solution.

“I guess I kind of want to see more of the feedback from passengers, or anyone that may request it,” Chavez added. “We’re going to try to learn from Brownsville to see what opportunities can arise from here, but nothing yet for Edinburg.”

situations.”

Gonzalez explained the differences between OVAVP and the Police Department in these types of cases.

“We have confidential service for free for students, faculty and staff,” she said. “As I mentioned before, we collaborate a lot with Amanda. The only difference about our office is the confidentiality part. Since Amanda works with the Police Department, even if the student is not ready to make the report, it will still be made.”

Gonzalez said OVAVP gives the victim the opportunity to choose whether they want to do the report or not, because going to the OVAVP offices does not mean they are ready to report the case.

“People may give consent at the very beginning but throughout the experience they may say no in the middle of it,” she said. “And if they continue to do it, it is sexual assault. Anything that is an unwanted sexual touching or anything like that.”

Students can call the OVAVP offices at 665-8287 and the UTRGV Police Department at 882-7777.

For more information about the Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention services, visit its website. To make reports anonymous, use the CampusShield application.

--Valeria Henderson contributed to this report.



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

The Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention provides services and resources to victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and other forms of interpersonal violence to all students, staff and faculty at UTRGV.