Correction

Due to a reporting error, an article headlined “UTRGV se une para ayudar la las familias que más lo necesitan,” which was published in the Nov. 15 issue of The Rider, incorrectly attributed some quotes to April Muñoz, program coordinator for Student Organizations. The actual source was Nadia Valdez, student assistant for Student Rights and Responsibilities who was also a member of the Student Food Pantry’s campus unit. The Rider corrects the attribution on Page 7 of this issue.

SGA urges increase in campus security

Valeria Henderson
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has proposed a resolution calling for greater security measures on all campuses, especially at night amid recent incidents of sexual assault, burglary and aggravated assault by deadly weapons.

During its Nov. 16 meeting on the Brownsville campus and via Zoom, the senate said it would send the resolution to the Campus Life and Safety Committee for review.

Senate Resolution 06 Security Measure notes that the SGA has received concerns from students about safety on campus and cites: —the UTRGV Annual Security and Fire Safety Report of 2020, which documents an increase in rape, burglary, and robbery cases, and a 150% increase in stalking incidents on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the report documented incidents of rape.

See SGA, Page 6

Making changes

UTRGV works with TSC to address art students’ concerns

Luis Martinez Santillanes/THE RIDER

Amid the discourse surrounding the Athletics Fee Referendum, students have raised concerns regarding the quality of university art facilities and the funding for art programs.

During the Nov. 11 Athletics Fee Referendum news conference on the Edinburg campus, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the art facilities on campus are “very poor quality” and that the university will announce a solution soon.

Kimberly Sandoval, Student Government Association senator at large, said her goal is to get the university to start making changes.

“I’m glad that it’s reached the president’s ears,” Sandoval said in an interview Nov. 15. “It’s being acknowledged. Whether that means that we’re going to have the kind of change that we want is kind of left in the air, the kind of change we expect. Maybe, maybe, we’ll actually get them to fix some stuff.”

In a Nov. 8 interview, she said the reason the School of Music receives more funding than the School of Art is the enrollment numbers.

The School of Art and Design has 777 reportable students, while the School of Music has 1,675.

The Rider
November 29, 2021

THE RIDER

Happy Holidays, Vaqueros!

Today

University

Christians at RGV will hold a 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom and from noon to 1:45 p.m. in person in Science and Learning Center 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. RSVP is available on V Link.

K.I.S.S. Meeting

The Korean International Student Students will conduct a general meeting from 12:30 to 2 p.m. today and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday in Education Complex 2.010 on the Edinburg campus. Students can interact with people who are passionate about Korean culture, music and language. RSVP is available on V Link.

Turning Point USA

Turning Point USA at UTRGV, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that educates students on the benefits of freedom, fiscal responsibility and small government, will conduct an informational session from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. The organization will distribute stickers, buttons and handouts from the national organization.

UndocuStories

The Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center will host Community Connections: UndocuStories (with Yessi) from 1 to 2 p.m. via Zoom for students to get to know “Dreamer” students and learn how to better support them. RSVP is available on V Link.

Room Health Tote Bag

The Intersectional Feminist Student Organization will conduct a distribution of health tote bags from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Viola/Violin Student Recital

Students in School of Music Professor Joel Pagan’s Viola/Violin Studio will perform a variety of traditional and contemporary works in a recital at 5 p.m. today in the UTRGV Library Auditorium in Edinburg. Admission is free. The event is part of the Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series.

Breakfast Wrangler

The Student Union will host the Breakfast Wrangler. Register on Handshake or email carecenter@utrgv.edu.

Graphic Thoughts

The UTRGV Library will conduct Graphic Thoughts: “Are You Reading?” from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom to discuss comics and graphic novels. RSVP is available on V Link.

Wednesday

The People Series

The People Series for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center will host The People Series: What Up from noon to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. There will be free food, games, music and dancing.

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 12 and 18.

Nov. 12

7:16 a.m.: A construction worker reported that a piece of equipment left on the construction site had been moved f r o m its original location at the Institute of Neuroscience on the Harlingen campus. The case is under investigation.

11:40 p.m.: An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. An investigation revealed the driver had an active arrest warrant for assault (misdemeanor) out of the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office. The arrest warrant was confirmed and a deputy arrived at the scene and took custody of the man without incident.

Nov. 14

7:01 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed via border cameras near Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area.

Nov. 15

8:55 p.m.: A student reported that while barbecuing at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus, a small portion of the fire fell on the concrete slab, requiring him to use the fire extinguisher.

11:08 p.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed via border cameras near Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area.

Nov. 16

6:01 p.m.: A Texas Southmost College student living at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus was involved in a verbal disturbance with her father in the parking lot. An investigation revealed no physical altercation had occurred. The student’s father was issued a criminal trespass warning.

11:46 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications informed officers of border crossing activity observed via U.S. border fence cameras located behind the Facilities building on the Brownsville campus. An officer responded and assisted a U.S. Border Patrol agent in searching the area.

The Border Patrol agent subsequently took custody of two adults and their child from Honduras without incident.

The concert is part of the Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series.

The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent who boy who was a trainee in Weslaco-Edinburg is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent who is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.” The movie takes place on Christmas Eve, when a U.S. Border Patrol agent is about to leave for the North Pole to enjoy hot cocoa, winter crafts and watch “The Polar Express.”
ON CAMPUS/LOCAL

Alondra Yáñez
THE RIDER

UTRGV reported two additional COVID-19 cases between Nov. 5 and 11, according to a university official.

Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the Infections Disease Committee at UTRGV, said among the two was one student and one staff member.

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

Arney said no UTRGV students were quarantined or removed from campus the week of Nov. 8 to 11.

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 unvaccinated students.

As of last Wednesday, UT Health RGV had administered 46,496 tests and 86,455 vaccine doses, according to the Confirmed Cases Dashboard on the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, COVID-19 continues to trend down. Hidalgo County reported an additional 52 confirmed cases last Wednesday, raising the county’s total to 118,644, according to its website.

As of last Wednesday, the county reported one additional death, raising its death toll to 1,996. All three individuals were unvaccinated.

Last Tuesday, Cameron County Public Health removed an additional 20 COVID-19 cases, raising its total to 53,793.

Cameron County also reported three additional COVID-19-related deaths Tuesday, raising its death toll to 1,070. The individual was unvaccinated.

The candidate also talked about the importance of doing more to prepare us for potential failures potentially within the grid, that our state is taking place here on a national level.

“I want to make sure that we do it ourselves and so they have someone who’s equally invested in their success,” he said.

The Democratic candidate also mentioned the disconnect between the issues faced in border towns and what is portrayed by the state’s representation.

“O’Rourke called the event a m a n d e d blueprint that high schools have to follow in order to qualify and be designated as a true early college high school,” Aldape said.

“New vision with the campus is a little bit different from that, and, so, while it’s no longer a designated early college high school, we’re still offering students a very similar experience. So, with that opportunity and the change that we’ve made and the structure, we’ve been able to rethink what all of this looks like, and that was a good opportunity to change the name to something that fits a little bit more of what we’re doing,” Aldape said. “This new vision with the campus is a little bit different from that, and, so, while it’s no longer a designated early college high school, we’re still offering students a very similar experience. So, with that opportunity and the change that we’ve made and the structure, we’ve been able to rethink what all of this looks like, and that was a good opportunity to change the name to something that fits a little bit more of what we’re doing.”

When you come to UTRGV, we are fully committed to you graduating with minimal debt and with most success... We want you to graduate, we want you to stay here in the Valley. ... This is a great place to live. We couldn’t do this, we couldn’t provide this kind of education without partners.”

---Guy Bailey
UTRGV President

“UTRGV, in collaboration with the state of Harlingen and Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, is giving students the opportunity to engage in the college experience and earn at least 42 college credit hours upon graduating through UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School.”

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the school is application-based.

“Students do not have to live in Harlingen to attend, as it is an open-enrollment school district.”

“UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School is a ninth-through-twelfth-grade campus and, beginning in the 11th grade, students start taking only UTRGV courses to satisfy their high school graduation requirements by the time that they’ve finished those two courses articulated that will increase that number a little bit,” he said. “So, minimum, we’re looking at 42 to 47 hours in addition to pathway courses. So, most will end up getting towards within that window.”

Vela Garcia said the school is application-based. Students do not have to live in Harlingen to attend, as it is an open-enrollment school district.

“So, we do open our applications to all of our students Valleywide, and that won’t be high school and all, she said. “So, when students in eighth grade choose to begin their high school career at Harlingen High School, they can go online to our HCISD.org website and fill out the applications which we will open them in the spring.”

Each class at UTRGV Harlingen Collegiate High School is capped at 25 students each, for a max student population of 400, which encourages small learning communities to support educational success, according to a new release sent by the district.

Students can still participate in extracurricular activities like comprehensive and enriched high schools, Vela Garcia said. In addition to being focused on achieving their college goals, students can also participate in the arts and athletics.

During the Nov. 15 ribbon-cutting ceremony, UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the City of Harlingen and school district have been partners like no others.

“I’ve been to a lot of places and a lot of universities,” Bailey said. “We’ve never

See HCISD, Page
Choosing me

Leading up to the last weeks of the semester, every college student starts to feel the pressure of making deadlines, writing essays and taking final exams. Within all that craziness, we sort of forget to breathe and take time for ourselves. Many of us work two jobs on top of being a student and it can really tire us out, both physically and mentally.

Learning to be your own cheerleader is a long journey, and it all starts with you. I have many friends who post on Facebook about learning to love themselves. I never fully understood it until I went through something where I had to choose between myself or to continue to strain my mental health. Throughout the process of getting hired for my second job, I never doubted that I would be able to handle work, school and my personal life. I was already doing it with one job, why not two? But as months went by, I realized that it was taking up so much of my energy and time. I contemplated quitting for about two months before I actually decided to take the first step. It took me longer than I wanted since I was looking at it from an experience/looking-good-on-your-resume point of view. Yet, I did decide to quit when I realized that loving yourself took sacrifice.

I am really big on having a career you enjoy and thought my second job was going to open doors for me. Instead, it made me learn more about myself. I have slowly but surely, learned how to be patient with myself and the decisions I make. More often than not, I like to rush things, worry too much about what is next and overthink way too much. Being a student is already a full-time job, and I would rather make sacrifices right now that will soon lead to what my true calling is.
La Unión del Pueblo Entero está buscando un candidato progresista para representar el Distrito 15 del Congreso, que está siendo desocupado por el Representante de los Estados Unidos, Vicente González (D-Texas).

Hace unas semanas La Unión del Pueblo Entero anunció el lanzamiento de LUPE Votes (501(c)4) en donde la organización podrá respaldar a candidatos políticos.

El Distrito 15 del Congreso de Texas está ubicado en la parte sur del estado. Los condados de Guadalupe, Wilson, Karnes, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Brooks y una parte del condado de Hidalgo que incluye las ciudades de McAllen, Edinburg, Mercedes, McCoak, North Weslaco, North Donna, North Alamo, Hargill, Hidalgo y Elsa conforman el distrito.

Dani Marrero Hi, directora de comunicaciones de LUPE Votes, explicó la misión de LUPE Votes.

“La organización Lupe Votes es la organización hermana de La Unión del Pueblo Entero”, dijo Marrero. “Entonces, ya sabes, trabajamos juntos, pero son organizaciones separadas”.

Marrero dijo que la misión de LUPE Votes es proteger a la clase trabajadora del sur de Texas y asegurarse de que los mejores internos de la clase trabajadora del sur de Texas estén representados a nivel local, estatal y nacional.

“501(c)4 LUPE Votes es diferente al 501(c)3 La Unión del Pueblo Entero, acabamos de lanzar este 501(c)4 LUPE Votes el 1 de noviembre”, dijo Jacqueline Arias, organizadora de compromiso cívico de La Unión del Pueblo Entero. “Lo lanzamos con una campaña en el pueblo, donde estamos lanzando una búsqueda de nominaciones para un líder en nuestra comunidad para postularse para el Congreso, específicamente el Distrito 15 del Congreso de Texas”.

Arias explicó que la razón por la que crearon LUPE Votes fue porque el actual congresista del Distrito 15, Vicente González, decidió cambiar de distrito al Distrito 34.

“Arias explicó que el cambio repentino del actual congresista del Distrito 15, Vicente González, decidió cambiar de distrito al Distrito 34”, dijo Marrero. “Entonces, lo más importante es nuestra plataforma de energías, dijo Arias. “Esta plataforma de energías se enfoca en seguro médico del estado para todos, un salario mínimo de 15 dólares (por hora), una universidad pública gratuita, una escuela de oficios, trabajos climáticos para personas de bajos ingresos del sur de Texas y el crear LUPE Votes es una continuación de eso, como un legado sólido que tiene la organización. Arias explicó algunos puntos en el que La Unión del Pueblo Entero se enfoca para crear un cambio en la comunidad”.

“Entonces, la forma en que lo hemos hecho es una plataforma de energías”, dijo Marrero.

Marrero explicó cómo la comunidad puede hacer sus nominaciones. “Entonces, la forma en que lo hemos hecho es una plataforma de energías”, dijo Marrero. “Pueden nominar a cualquier persona en su vida que crea que está lista para representar a la clase trabajadora del sur de Texas”.

Hay ciertos requisitos que por ley tienen que tener, dijo Marrero. “Los candidatos nominados tienen que tener al menos 25 años y tienen que ser ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos”.

Marrero explicó que la fecha límite fue el 19 de noviembre para nominar a alguien para representar el Distrito 15. “Después de eso, todavía tendremos un formulario en nuestro sitio web para nombrar a otras personas que creen que deberían postularse, para ya sabes, cualquier puesto en el cargo”. Arias explicó lo que el postulamiento de González al Distrito 34 significó para La Unión del Pueblo Entero y la comunidad. “Creemos firmemente que Vicente González abandonó nuestro distrito”, dijo Arias. “Entendemos que los republicanos manipularon y redistribuyeron Texas 15, creemos que la necesitábamos tener personas políticas más sólidas como seguro médico del estado para todos y un salario mínimo de 15 dólares”.

Arias dijo que ahora depende de La Unión del Pueblo Entero y la comunidad para luchar por las mejores políticas progresistas y audaces”. Arias dijo que la comunidad está esperando cambios. “Estamos haciendo esto porque hay un movimiento progresista durante los últimos cuatro años en el Valle del Río Grande, en el sur de Texas”, dijo Arias. “Necesitamos líderes para servir cambios en política progresiva y audaz”.

Arias dijo que la comunidad está esperando cambios. “Dentro de un año o dos, hay más cambios esperados”, dijo Arias. “Entendemos la importancia de la riqueza” dijo Arias. “No a la gente de clase trabajadora en el sur de Texas, nuestros salarios siguen siendo el salario mínimo de 7.25 dólares. Si todavía no tenemos seguridad médica para todos, los trabajadores que trabajan en granjas, todos esos trabajadores, ni siquiera salarios bien pagados, entonces creemos que esto es parte de un movimiento en crecimiento, no solo en el sur de Texas, sino en todo el país que exige salarios más altos, exige atención médica y mejores empleos”. 

La Unión del Pueblo Entero, es la organización hermana de La Unión del Pueblo Entero, explica la campaña Get Out The Vote el 17 de noviembre en el campus de Edinburg. El evento fue organizado con el objetivo de buscar un candidato en la comunidad para postularse para el Distrito 15 del Congreso y los puntos que tienen que tener en cuenta al hacerlo. También se muestra Nathalia Mata, coordinadora de prensa de LUPE Votes.

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ON CAMPUS

FBI crime data found in 89% of the Texas cities and towns of rate that is statistically higher than -- the City of Edinburg has a crime 83% increase in stalking incidents in burglary, motor vehicle theft and an

Department of Dance and the Department of Theatre, the of Fine Arts budget is divided among five departments: the School of Art, the School of Fine Arts, the School of Music, the School of Design, the

Block, the dean of the College of Fine Arts, in a town hall that took place before the referendum voting.

"I don't think he fully knew how to respond to me because of how it was," Sandoval said. "But, I also believe he was under a lot of stress at the time."

In an interview with The Rider on Nov. 17, Block said the College of Fine Arts budget is divided among five departments: the School of Art and Design, the School of Music, the Department of Theatre, the Department of Dance and the Department of Creative Writing.

"If you want to talk in general about how they're divided, they're divided according to the size and the nature of the faculty," he said.

Because music is a collaborative art form, a greater number of faculty members are required, according to Block.

"You can't have a hand without a trumpet professor," he said. "Because of the nature of music as a collaborative art, all the parts have to be there in order for the student to get a proper education in any music program. It doesn't matter what university, you're going to have a greater number of faculty to hire."

While the School of Music has fewer enrolled majors than the School of Art, there are more credit hours being taken in music by the entire university than credit hours taken in art, he said.

As for student concerns regarding the art facilities, Block and Jana Arney, UTRGV’s executive vice president and provost, toured Rusteberg Hall, which is owned by Texas Southmost College.

"Texas Southmost College is not interested in selling the building," Block said. "What, you, basically, have is a landlord-tenant kind of situation."

Recently, UTRGV and TSC began working together to address issues in Rusteberg Hall, according to Abraham Sandoval, associate vice president for Marketing and Communications.

The resolution will address a lot of issues for this facility.

"At this point, I am pleased with the changes that I've seen in their report," he said. "So, we're going to continue working with them, because we do have to have a working relationship since it is their building that we're occupying."

The Rider called TSC officials Marce-
Tempsa de Dar es un evento que se organiza cada año para crear conciencia en la comunidad de UTRGV. El propósito de este evento es recaudar comida enlatada y alimentos no perecederos para ayudar a estudiantes y a la comunidad del Valle del Río Grande a no pasar hambre.

Fatima Gamez Lopez FOTO RIDER

“Temporada de Dar es un evento que organizamos todos los años, será nuestro quinto año en el Campus de Edinburg y Brownsville. El propósito de este evento es recaudar alimentos para la despensa de comida y ayudar a nuestra comunidad.”

Raul Leal, Coordinador de Programas de Servicio Comunitario

El propósito del evento es recolectar comida enlatada y alimentos no perecederos para ayudar a estudiantes y a la comunidad del Valle del Río Grande a no pasar hambre.

Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El Centro para la Participación Estudiantil se une en colaboración con la Despensa de Comida para estudiantes de UTRGV para organizar el evento anual, Temporada de Dar, para ayudar a las familias que más lo necesitan.

“Temporada de Dar es un evento que organizamos todos los años, estará nuestro quinto año en el Campus de Edinburg y Brownsville con el propósito de educar a los estudiantes sobre los problemas que enfrentan los menos afortunados en la nación y ofrecer oportunidades de servicio comunitario a estudiantes.”

Leal explicó que las organizaciones que participan en el concurso de decoración de cajas recibirán un premio de 350 dólares si su organización participó en la competencia de la decoración de cajas. Además, se premiará a la organización que recauda la mayor cantidad de alimentos enlatados.

“Cualquier estudiante puede ser voluntario en este evento. Los estudiantes voluntarios proporcionarán comida a los estudiantes de los campus y a la comunidad alrededor del Campus de Edinburg y Brownsville.”

Leal explicó que los alimentos que se donan serán distribuidos a los estudiantes de los campus y a la comunidad alrededor del Campus de Edinburg y Brownsville.

“Nuestro objetivo del programa es crear conciencia sobre los diferentes problemas que enfrentan los estudiantes. También queremos que nuestros estudiantes sepan que el servicio es una prioridad.”

Nadia Valdez, Asistente para el Departamento para el Servicio Comunitario a los Estudiantes

Los estudiantes pueden ser voluntarios en el sitio web de la despensa de comida para estudiantes en UTRGV.

El Centro para la Participación Estudiantil se une en colaboración con la Despensa de Comida para estudiantes de UTRGV.

“El propósito del evento es recolectar comida enlatada y alimentos no perecederos para ayudar a estudiantes y a la comunidad. En este evento, los estudiantes voluntarios proporcionarán comida a los estudiantes y a la comunidad.”

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Leal explicó que los alimentos que se donan serán distribuidos a los estudiantes de los campus y a la comunidad.
School of Music auditions continue for the Spring 2022 semester. The School of Music is currently offering around 20 music faculty positions, for which the student chooses to audition through a pre-recorded submission, a link to an unlisted YouTube video containing the audition will be linked onto the form. Auditions take place during the spring semester and can also be scheduled at any time during the year by contacting the School of Music and the appropriate applied music faculty member. The School of Music’s newly released digital magazine, the School of Music’s newsletter, has an issue that discusses the fall 2021 auditions for the School of Music. The School of Music offers some specific requirements for its auditions. Specifics on what students must come prepared with for their respective auditions can be found on the School of Music website. Mark Ramirez, associate director of the School of Music and professor of percussion, said the school hopes to keep a sense of community and have people experience a new world. “The school is opening its doors to the community so they can come and get to know us,” Ramirez said. “Our goal is to be inclusive and not exclusive.” For those interested in applying for the fall 2022 semester, the deadline is Aug. 1. However, this is the deadline for admission without music scholarship consideration. If the student wants to apply in time for music scholarship consideration, the deadline is March 11. To be considered for the scholarship, students must be enrolled full-time (12 hours). The School of Music currently offers around 20 endowment scholarships that are offered to a variety of the majors at the school. For more information on auditions for the UTRGV School of Music, visit its website www.utrgv.edu/music or visit the School of Music Facebook page.

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**Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes**

**Aries** - This semester has challenged you in ways you did not expect, but you found ways to make it special nonetheless. You are on the right track and will get to where you want to be soon enough. Remember to not be so hard on yourself.

**Taurus** - The end of the semester means you are one step closer to Christmas, your favorite time of year because you appreciate gifts and being spoiled by the ones you love. Just trek through the next few weeks and you will get your time to bask in the finer things. Someone who cares for you has the perfect gift waiting under the tree for you.

**Gemini** - Being educated is something you hold in high regard, especially for yourself. With Gemini’s determination to learn, it is not unlikely that many of you will be graduating this December. Know that you will find purpose outside of your student role after you leave the Vaquero halls. A seeker of knowledge will find purpose outside of your student role after you will be graduating this December. Know that you have the space to roam the way you would like to.

**Cancer** - The winter months make you crave that feeling of safety with your family from when you were a child. Take this holiday break to share more with your loved ones. Good or bad, you know this conversation will make you feel better and closer to them. The holiday break is the perfect time for you to take that trip you have been longing to take. Get yourself out there and live life the way you have always wanted to, like a bird.

**Leo** - You associate the holidays with your childhood memories because you miss the innocence you had back then. Much like “The Catcher in the Rye,” you feel that innocence should be preserved at all costs and will do whatever it takes to make sure it is not stolen from the children in your life, whether it be a little brother, sister, son, daughter, niece or nephew. The kid in you always tries to make the holiday season special for the little ones in your life. Know that your kindred spirit is appreciated.

**Virgo** - As a Virgo, you are ruled by the mind, meaning that you appreciate knowledge and are attracted to intellect. As the semester comes to a close, the academia in you may feel a bit disappointed, but know that the discussions and witty banter you crave can be fed outside the world of academia as well. Pay close attention to the ones in your life who challenge you to think differently. They may be just what you need.

**Libra** - Being the people person you are, you have to be social during the holiday season. While you may feel that you have to comply with everyone, remember that the people closest to you always take time during the year by contacting the School of Music and the appropriate applied music faculty member, “Auditions take place during the spring semester and can also be scheduled at any time during the year by contacting the School of Music and the appropriate applied music faculty member,” according to SOUND magazine.

**Scorpio** - You love the mystery of not knowing what is waiting around the corner. With the end of another chapter in your life closing, you wait in anticipation to see what life has in store for you. While others may view this as a cool and mysterious characteristic of yours, you are secretly afraid of the wonder. Know that you hold the pen to write your next chapter. The freedom is scary but also excites the adrenaline junky in you.

**Sagittarius** - You cannot be tamed by anyone, Sagittarius. You are a wanderer and love to see and experience new places. The holiday break is the perfect time for you to take that trip you have been longing to take. Get yourself out there and live life the way you have always wanted to, like a bird.

**Capricorn** - You have big goals and are always pushing the limit to reach them. Know that you do not have to be successful by any standards but your own. The holiday season often makes you feel as though you have to measure yourself up to the others at the dinner table. There are always going to be people who do not get it, but know that the ones who matter are proud of you.

**Aquarius** - With the semester ending, you finally have the space to roam the way you would like to. No schedule, no assignments, just vibes. You are mesmerized by the idea of your future and often need a lot of time to yourself to feel liberated. With the holidays coming up, some people in your life might want you to stick around. This feeling often makes you feel suffocated like a butterfly being trapped in a jar. Try to be better about expressing your feelings when it comes to issues like this.

**Pisces** - The end of the semester for you feels like a giant weight lifted off your shoulders. You are finally able to rest the way you need to. Use this holiday break to recover from the semester and recharge that social battery. This is the perfect time to focus on self-care and look within to present your best self.
After playing four years of sports, Muff was a multi-sport athlete at Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, Kansas. She lettered all four years in volleyball, basketball and track and field.

"I'm so happy that I committed to playing three sports," Muff said. "I think that's kind of what allowed me to play volleyball and then play basketball afterwards. It did help develop me as a player and just as a person. You get to meet so many people and the mental game behind each sport is so different. So, you're getting a lot of different perspectives.

Muff said she had an amazing experience at UNC and said the all-around culture was the best part of it. "That's something I'll never forget...Winning the Big Sky Championship," she said. "One of my biggest accomplishments, personally, but it made it so worth it because of the people I was with. Going in every day, every practice, every weight session, every extra rep with the people I was around, that's what made winning so much fun."

Sophomore guard Sara Bershers told The Rider she heard Muff was "outrageously good" during her time at UNC. "From day one, she's been, going in every day, every practice, every weight session, every extra rep with the people I was around, that's what made winning so much fun."

"You can even see how it translates on the basketball court and her athleticism is through the roof," Bershers said. "That's something I'll never forget...Winning the Big Sky Championship," she said. "One of my biggest accomplishments, personally, but it made it so worth it because of the people I was with. Going in every day, every practice, every weight session, every extra rep with the people I was around, that's what made winning so much fun."

"I think she makes everybody on our team and our coaches better every day. She's such a competitive person. Her work ethic is as good as anybody I've ever had in 28 years. So, I didn't think she was gonna do it. But then, every time I talked to her, I was like, "You're coming, right? You're coming?" and, yeah, she made the commitment to come. So, I was ecstatic."

He said beside her being a great athlete, the best thing about Muff is her competitive spirit. "I think she makes everybody on our team and our coaches better every day."

Lord and Muff have a close relationship as Lord's daughter is friends with Muff and Muff's father, Kevin Muff, was Pitt State's men's basketball head coach from 2011 to 2017. "Well, I've been recruiting Muff since she was in seventh grade," Lord said. "[I] got to watch Taylor compete for a long, long time. I've been pretty much talking to her about doing this because her sister played for me as well after volleyball at Kansas State. So, at first, I didn't think she was gonna do it. But then, every time I talked to her, I was like, "You're coming, right? You're coming?" and, yeah, she made the commitment to come. So, I was ecstatic."

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BASKETBALL
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just easy for everyone to turn and follow her.”

She said Muff’s leadership has made it easier for everyone.

“I’ve never really had someone above me that I can look up to as a leader,” Williams said. “I’ve always had to lead. She’s been so big for me. Like she’s helped me learn so much as a leader and as a person. She brings competitiveness, day to day, like, every day. She’s the hardest worker out there. And it just makes us all have to rise to her level.”

Muff said Williams is one of her biggest inspirations at the moment and helped a lot when she was transitioning to basketball and UTRGV.

“She’s probably one of the most mentally, like, locked-in players I’ve ever played with,” Muff said. “But, she understands the game so well. She has such a passion for basketball that I can really feed off of.”

In an interview with Pittsburg, Kansas, TV station KOAM, Muff said she was nervous since the last time she played a legitimate basketball game was senior year of high school.

Asked if she still feels nervous, three games into the season, Muff replied, “No, nerves are gone. For sure. But, I think if I would not have had experience in college before this, then yes.”

With the women’s basketball team three games into the season, Muff is averaging 11.7 points, eight rebounds and 1.7 steals per game.

In her first collegiate game against No. 21-ranked University of South Florida on Nov. 9, Muff posted a career-high 15 points, nine rebounds and made three out of five three-pointers.

“That just shows you that against a top 20, 21 team in the country that she can compete with anybody,” Lord said.

Playing Nov. 16 against UNC, where she finished with eight points, nine rebounds and three steals, Muff said it was really fulfilling to see how many people are still behind her.

“I had a whole, like, little fan section in the gym,” Muff said. “That wasn’t even my gym anymore. But, it was cool. Just to see, like, that I did get to leave an impact, even if it was a small one, on some people there.”

Muff said her expectations for the team are to win a Western Athletic Conference Championship and to maybe make some noise in the NCAA tournament.

“Our process is, kind of, win of one game at a time, one possession at a time and one practice at a time,” she said. “So that’s kind of where our minds are at right now.”

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Sanya pulled her arms through the sleeves of her blue jacket, setting it firmly across her shoulders. She sank comfortably and securely into the seventy-three percent polyester piece of cloth. She looked out of the doorway at the house across the square ahead. Smoke from a thousand, what felt like a thousand, campfires billowed into clouds that obscured the stars. People were laughing, talking, moving in the square outside. The noise climbed into her ears and crawled down her throat, filling her up until she could barely breathe. Sanya gripped the door frame and took deep breaths. She was breathing...she was breathing...she just felt like she couldn’t breathe. There was a difference.

Sanya stepped out and locked the door behind her. She could feel worry lines forming, and she pushed on her brow to flatten them out. She paused, looking at the crowd, but stepped in a moment later. The people flowed around her, and she hurried along, not knowing whether she should walk quickly or slowly. Her feet hit the polished rocks beneath her. She could feel the smooth curves and sharp edges in them through her shoes. A sign in the city had said that they’d been there for centuries. People had walked and ran and slipped over those rocks a hundred thousand times.

Sanya continued walking down the square. The smoke and the noise seemed to put her in a haze. She kept walking, not knowing if she should or even could stop. It seemed impossible to do anything but keep going on in the same direction. She wasn’t breathing anymore. Well, she knew she was breathing because she was still walking and that meant she was alive, and she wouldn’t be alive if she’d stop breathing but Sanya had stopped noticing her breathing. It seemed far away, like the body was breathing and Sanya was just inside it being carried by some contraption of flesh and muscle.

She clenched her fists, reminding herself that this was her body, that she was in it, and she was in the square surrounded by all these people. Impossible, the square got even more crowded as she passed through the middle. People and noises piled up on top of each other. A person ran by holding a chicken for some reason, and its cawing added to the cacophony. A man walked past Sanya, brushing against her jacket with his sleeve. It would have touched her bare arm if the jacket hadn’t been there. Sanya shivered at the thought. She couldn’t shake the feeling of cloth moving over skin in such a nauseating manner.

Sanya saw a pretzel vendor to the right of her, and she practically ran over to the boy. She fumbled through the entire encounter, confused the way someone might be confused after having smoke blown into the eyes. She emerged from it victorious though, with a pretzel held firmly in her right hand. Sanya bit into it, chewing as she walked down the square, coming nearer and nearer to the house. She looked at the house, only the house, not the people around her, not the bonfires that appeared intermittently, just the house.

Sanya’s foot hit a stone jutting out a couple of inches above the rest. She slipped and fell onto the ground. Her pretzel fell from her hand, a dollar and some cents lying there on the ground next to her. It was ok though. The salt crystals on the pretzel were too big.

Sanya jumped off from the ground, not wanting to get in anyone’s path. She walked quicker. The house grew nearer and nearer. She willed herself to keep walking steadily, to not break into a run now that it drew so close. In a few seconds, her hands touched the wooden door, and she felt her own breathing again. She sprinted into the house, slamming the door behind her against the crowded square.

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