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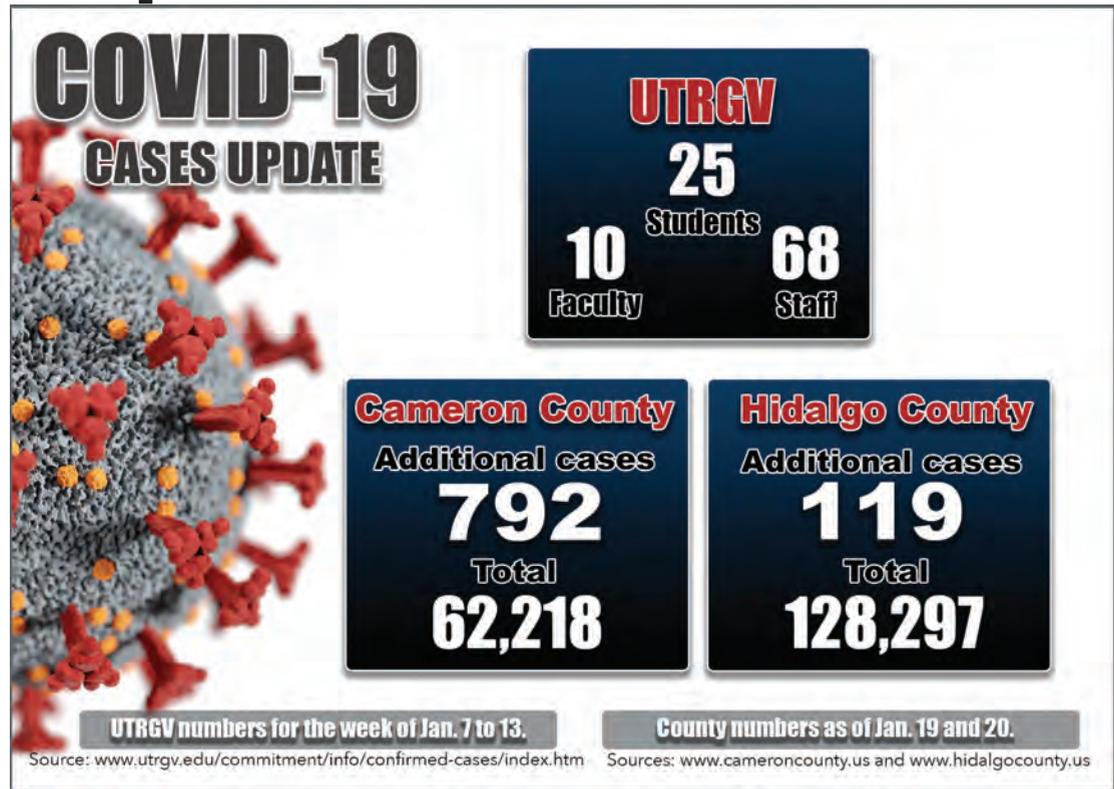
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AT UTRGV 103 COVID positive University community encouraged to update vaccination status



Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

UTRGV reported 103 new COVID-19 cases between Jan. 7 and 13, 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 103 were 25 students, 68 staff and 10 faculty members.

UTRGV updates 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 two of the 25 students were quarantined in on-campus isolation housing the week of Jan. 7 to 13.

Students, faculty and staff can update their vaccination status in the UTRGV Vaccine

Portal, according to UTRGV policies and processes.

Individuals can log in using their UTRGV credentials and update their status after every dose, including booster shots.

All campus updates, protocols and the answers to frequently asked questions related to the Spring 2022 semester can be found at utrgv.edu/welcomeback.

In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, COVID-19 cases continue to increase.

Hidalgo County reported

See COVID, Page 2

Offices open in person or online to students

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

Even though classes were moved to virtual for the first two weeks of school due to "the emergence and rapid spread of the Omicron variant," students will still be able to use the campus resources at UTRGV.

Michael Foster, associate director of the Learning Center, described the services the center offers to students.

"We offer tutoring services for undergraduate courses [math, science, liberal arts and business]," he said. "We offer one-on-one tutoring and we also offer peer collaborative learning."

Foster explained that during the first two weeks, their services will be online from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"But after the first two weeks, they can make an appointment to meet face-to-face with a tutor," he said. "Or, they can simply go to our webpage and see a tutor online immediately."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit its website.

"The Learning Center is here to assist students," Foster said. "We will be available from day one of the semester and we will offer all of our services."

University Recreation

Kimberly Rottet, director of University Recreation, said the center has resumed its regular hours of operation since classes started on

See OFFICES, Page 2



Ailed Montague/THE RIDER

A new research facility in Brownsville



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Construction of the Center for Human Genetics will cost \$15.8 million and is funded by various sources, including \$8.92 million from the Permanent University Fund, said Marta Salinas-Hovar, UTRGV associate vice president for Facilities Planning and Operations. Sixty parking spaces were lost in Lot B-2 due to the construction, according to Agustin Rodriguez, director of Facilities Planning & Management for the UTRGV School of Medicine.

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

Construction on the new Center for Human Genetics Building on the Brownsville campus began Oct. 6 and is anticipated to be completed in December 2022. The 17,819-gross-square-foot building will serve as additional space for research.

Marta Salinas-Hovar, associate vice president for Facilities Planning and Operations, said the total project cost is \$15.8 million and is funded by various sources, including \$8.92 million from the Permanent University Fund, a public endowment contributing to the support of

eligible institutions, according to the University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Co. website.

Salinas-Hovar said Sarah Williams-Blangero, a School of Medicine genetics professor and primary investigator in this research, also received a grant.

"She received a \$6 million grant from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation," she said. "We have scheduled also to use approximately \$856,000 from unexpended plant funds, which is like local university funds."

The new building will have a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite, office suite, standard and vivarium research labs. The vivarium lab is a "specially designed building

type, which accommodates exquisitely controlled environments for the care and maintenance of experimental animals," according to the Whole Building Design Guide website.

Agustin Rodriguez, director of Facilities Planning and Management for the School of Medicine, said the MRI portion of the building will help researchers test individuals.

"The majority of it, the building, is a research building and its intention is for research work in the human genetics side," Rodriguez said.

Due to the construction, 60 parking spaces were lost in Lot B-2. Rodriguez said the

See FACILITY, Page 2

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
Gospel Fellowship
Christians at RGV will hold a **gospel fellowship** from noon to 1:45 p.m. in ESTAC 1.103 on the

Edinburg campus.

Tuesday
Drive-In Movie Night

The Campus Activites Board and Student Union has rescheduled its drive-in movie, "**Venom: Let There be Carnage,**" to 7 to 9 p.m. in Baseball Stadium Lot E-32 on the Edinburg campus.

Bible Reading

Christians at RGV will hold a **Bible reading** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Library Courtyard B on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday
Literature Discussion

The **University Library** will host a **discussion of graphic novels, manga and comics** from 5 to 6 p.m. online. Individuals must RSVP through V Link to receive a Zoom invitation.

Virtual Involvement Fair

A **Virtual Involvement Fair** will be held for registered **student organizations** from noon to 1:30 p.m. Three representatives from the Student Government Association, Student Union and Student Activities will discuss the allocation of resources for student organizations. Join the event online through V Link.

Thursday
Tabling Session

Christians at RGV will host an **informational tabling** from 10 to

11 a.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus.

Upcoming

Business Plan Competition
The **UTRGV Center for Innovation and Commercialization**, a division of the **Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship**, will hold its eighth annual **Business Plan Competition** this semester. The in-person competition is open to all current UTRGV students, faculty, staff, alumni and the Rio Grande Valley community at large. Application details can be found **here**. Click **here** for the link to the information session recording and slides. The deadline to submit an application is 5 p.m. Jan. 31.

--Compiled by *Diana Alvarez-Tovar*

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 16 and 19.

Jan. 16

4:30 p.m.: A staff member at the Casa Bella Apartments in Brownsville reported a man had been knocking on apartment doors and asking for money. An officer issued a criminal trespass warning

and escorted the man off campus without incident.

4:47 p.m.: A man reported finding a bullet in Lot B-7 on the Brownsville campus. The bullet was retrieved by an officer and submitted into evidence for destruction.

Jan. 17

11:16 a.m.: A male student reported having been assaulted by another male student while at the Health &

Physical Education Building I on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 19

10:39 a.m.: A student reported the back window of his vehicle was shattered while it was parked in Lot E-9 on the Edinburg campus. An investigation concluded that groundskeeping had cut the grass adjacent to the vehicle.

--Compiled by *Brigitte Ortiz*

COVID

Continued from Page 1

an additional 119 cases last Thursday, raising its total to 128,297, according to its website.

As of last Thursday, the county reported 13 additional deaths, raising its death toll to 3,573.

Cameron County reported an additional 792 cases as of last Wednesday, raising its total to 62,218 cases.

As of last , the county reported one additional death, raising the county's death toll to 2,046.

FACILITY

Continued from Page 1

university relocated handicapped spaces to Lot B-3 to recover the ones it lost.

"The parking spaces will be removed from the inventory," he said. "So, those general parking spaces that were there will not come back. We are doing some rezoning to the adjacent parking lot to the east to accommodate for some of the Zone 3 [spaces] that we previously had next to the building. But, we will be losing some parking spaces due to the building."

Rodriguez said the Facilities Planning and Management department dedicated a lot of effort to ensure the building fit with the campus architecture.

"That was really important to all of us here at Facilities as the new users, that we kind of match the building to what's there already to make it seamless," he said. "We did take a lot of time. So, there's some features that you'll see in the new building that correlate back to the existing buildings that we currently have. So, we wanted to make sure that that did happen in this facility."

OFFICES

Continued from Page 1

Jan. 18.

"So they're going to change, but they're going to change back to normal--let's put it that way," Rottet said. "When class is not in session, and or the university is on a slightly altered schedule, we do traditionally go to modified hours."

The UREC is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Texas Southmost College Recreation Center in Brownsville is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, according to its website.

"We are still offering virtual classes, like fitness classes," Rottet said. "If you are interested in virtual personal training, we have facilitated that over the actual closure of when we were closed for COVID."

She said by using the UTRGV University Recreation app available on Apple and Android devices, students can stay informed about the center.

"We like to tell ourselves and challenge our staff to make sure we are the cleanest gym in the [Rio Grande] Valley," Rottet said. "We are here [and] we are still trying to do everything that we do."

Counseling Center

Christopher Albert, director of the UTRGV Counseling Center, said the center offers its services to students in person and online.

"We help students to talk through their emotions and to learn coping skills to help them to better their life as well as improve their experience as a student [at] UTRGV," Albert said. He said students have the option to

schedule an appointment online or in person.

Students can call the center's office in Edinburg at 665-2574 or in Brownsville at 882-3897. They can also send an email to counseling@utrgv.edu. The center is located in University Center 109 on the Edinburg campus and in Student Union 2.10 on the Brownsville campus.

Albert said another resource students have is the Vaqueros Crisis Line (665-5555).

"Our office is open 8 to 5 Monday through Friday," he said. "But we do have the Vaqueros Crisis Line, which is 24/7. Students can access it to talk to someone to get through a difficulty."

Albert said the Counseling Center tries to make services as accessible as possible by having both in person and online.

U Central

Vanessa Maldonado, director of the Student Services Center, said the center assists students with a variety of enrollment issues.

"So, some of the resources that we offer are pretty much the front-facing area for the registrar's office, for financial aid, for admissions and for bursar's [office]," she said. "So, any type of questions or issues that you might have about your account, anything related to enrollment."

U Central is located in the Student Services building on the Edinburg campus and in Main Building 1.100 on the Brownsville campus.

Beginning today, U Central will return to its regular hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday. On Tuesday, it is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit its website or email ucentral@utrgv.edu.

University Library

Joel Chirinos, head of research and instructional services for the University Library, said the library offers a variety of resources to students and faculty.

"We have research services, we have textbook, textbook affordability services," Chirinos said, adding that students can review a list of courses marked by the instructor as a Zero Cost Materials Course by visiting its website. "We have access to computer labs [and] access to media resources. We are going to be offering throughout the semester a variety of different classes and workshops that are going to be aimed both at the student level and at the faculty level."

The library is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 10 p.m. Sunday on the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday on the Harlingen campus.

"We are asking everyone to take care of themselves, to take care of the staff when they come in," Chirinos said. "In the sense of, you know, practicing social distancing."

For more information, visit the library's website.

Parking Services

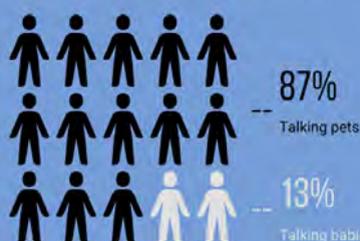
Pablo Aguilar, director of Parking Services, said the department is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday on both campuses.

The office is located at Police and Parking & Transportation Offices, Room 135, on the Edinburg campus and at Vaquero Plaza-A, Room 1.101A, on the Brownsville campus.

For more information, email parking@utrgv.edu or visit its website.

WACKY WEB POLL

TALKING PETS OR TALKING BABIES?



To record your answer on the Wacky Web poll, visit us at utrgvrider.com.

Brownsville City Commission

Neighborhood objection scraps restaurant construction on Carlton



Alejandra Yañez/THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission voted last Tuesday night to deny George Garcia, owner of two properties on Carlton Drive and Boca Chica Boulevard, the ability to build a restaurant and duplex in the Carlton subdivision. Shown (from left) are District 2 Commissioner Jessica Tetreau-Kalifa, District 1 Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana, Commissioner At-Large "A" John Cowen Jr., Mayor Trey Mendez, District 4 Commissioner Pedro Cardenas and District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos. De los Santos abstained from the vote.

Alejandra Yañez THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission voted last Tuesday against rezoning the Carlton Subdivision to allow construction of a restaurant and duplex after residents spoke against the plan and city staff recommended denying the request.

George Garcia, owner of the lots on Carlton Drive for the last 11 years, said his restaurant would benefit the community and petitioned the city to build his business.

However, some who live in the subdivision argued that a business on the street would only add to the growing traffic

problem that the area has experienced in the last couple of months due to the road construction on Boca Chica Boulevard.

Garcia's request to construct a duplex and restaurant were on the agenda as items 1 and 2 of the public hearing section.

The Garcia family applied to "amend the zoning map from residential single family to commercial corridor for Lot 1, Carlton Subdivision, Cameron County, Texas, located at 1 Carlton Drive," according to agenda documents.

During the public comment period, one resident referenced the killing of a pedestrian due to traffic in the area as another reason to deny the item, arguing

that the area is becoming more dangerous.

Six residents pleaded individually with the commission to reject the rezoning request.

The consensus of the residents who spoke was that those who live on Carlton Drive are predominantly retired educators and veterans, with some up to 92 years old, who do not appreciate their neighborhood becoming more congested.

Each individual who approached the lectern expressed sentiments of disapproval for the building of the restaurant due to traffic and existing drainage problems, which they believe will worsen

with the business.

Glenda Garcia, daughter of George Garcia, also spoke before the commission and referenced a petition that she created to support the building of her father's restaurant.

However, when asked by Mayor Trey Mendez if any of the signatures were from the residents of Carlton, Glenda Garcia replied none were.

Martin and Angelita Leal, retired educators of Brownsville Independent School District, live directly across from the two lots and attended the hearing in opposition to Garcia's rezoning request.

The couple have resided on Carlton Drive since the 1960s and said when Garcia first approached them 11 years ago he had the intention of building a home for his children. Later, they said he wanted a car wash and when that did not come to fruition, he decided on a duplex and restaurant.

"[Garcia] lives in a quiet neighborhood," Angelita Leal said. "If you want that business that bad, buy your neighbors out and put it in front of your home, not in front of ours. We don't want it in ours."

After hearing the recommendation from city staff to deny the request, the commission voted against it.

District 1 Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana made a motion to deny the item and District 2 Commissioner Jessica Tetreau-Kalifa seconded it. District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos abstained from voting.

Asked why she voted against the rezoning, Galonsky replied, "I doubt that [the Texas Department of Transportation] is going to give them the OK. The area is more residential."

She said TxDOT plans to create a median on Boca Chica Boulevard, from Minnesota Avenue to the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport, causing traffic on Carlton Drive and Boca Chica to detour.

The commissioner said another reason why she is against the construction is that Garcia's plan does not factor in space for restaurant parking since he will be using the second lot as a duplex.

"We are very happy that they took the side of the actual residents," Angelita Leal said.

When items 1 and 2 under the public hearing section were first introduced, Tetreau said she was aware of the traffic problem and is strongly against the building of a restaurant because it will take away space from the neighborhood children who "play on the sidewalk."

In an interview with The Rider after the meeting, Glenda Garcia said, "Commissioner Tetreau said there are children playing on the sidewalks, [but] there are no sidewalks in that neighborhood. So, I don't know if she's misinformed or why she even mentioned that because that is not true."

The Garcias said they are disappointed with the commission's decision and are not sure if they will request to have the items reconsidered.

Transportation services resume

Natalie Lapsley THE RIDER

UTRGV transportation services began operations last Tuesday, the first day of class, according to a university official.

Ian Chavez, UTRGV's assistant director of transportation, said the bus schedule will remain identical to that of Fall 2021.

The timetable is available at utrgv.edu/transportation.

"Everything is going to be based on demand," Chavez said. "We'll send out what available resources we have."

UTRGV's fleet of transportation vehicles consists of a 45-foot passenger bus that holds 56 passengers and five 42-passenger buses.

"Currently, we [are] averaging 2 to 3 passengers per departure," Chavez wrote in an email to The Rider Wednesday night. "This, of course, will change once the semester returns some classes to a traditional setting on the 31st of January."

Passengers are required to wear a mask the entire duration of their ride.

"Since our vehicles are federally funded, we have our mask mandate that is issued out by [the Transportation Security Administration]," Chavez said.

"That will be until March 18, 2022."

The mandate was first implemented Jan. 29 last year, and has been extended since then.

Chavez said the mandate may be extended again by the TSA.

Transportation services are still experiencing a shortage of employees.

"It's a nationwide issue with trying to hire staff with a [commercial driver's license]," Chavez said. "We'll do our best to make sure that we have enough staff available for our transportation needs."

In Brownsville, there are two vacant positions for drivers and three on the Edinburg campus.

Marketing junior Haziel Gonzales is based on the Brownsville campus and enrolled in five classes this semester.

"I have used it in the past," Gonzales said about university transportation. "It did change a bit how I move around and how I schedule my other classes. ... I have to take into account, like, about an hour and a half, you know, the traveling."

Gonzales said the mask requirement for the buses makes sense given the circumstances created by COVID-19.

"They're taking precautions,"



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, students are using UTRGV's transportation services. They are all wearing face masks as required by the federal mandate first implemented on Jan. 29, 2021, by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. A poster reminds the campus community to wear facial coverings.

he said. "It does make sense. I think if they just do the masks, you know, that's OK. But if they were to say, 'Keep one seat between people' ... it would reduce the amount of people that can go on that bus, and it will make things more hectic."

Gonzales will use university transportation services to travel from Brownsville to Edinburg for one class this semester.

Computer science senior Ruben De La Cruz is enrolled in five classes this semester and plans to use transportation services when classes resume in person.

"I'm going to be going to Edinburg every day," De La Cruz said. "All my classes are on the other campus."

The senior said it is his first time using transportation services.

"I usually always took classes here in Brownsville," De La Cruz said. "But, now that I don't really have the option to do that, I have to go to the other campus."

De la Cruz is glad that passengers will be required to wear masks.

"I honestly think it's important to wear the mask because of the new variants and

stuff," he said. "Since some people don't want to get the vaccine, it's just a big help for people to wear the mask."

As for any upgrades to the shuttle waiting zones, UTRGV has yet to receive final word on any projects, according to Chavez.

The Rider reached out to Gerardo Rodriguez, UTRGV's director of Facilities Planning and Construction, for an interview regarding the waiting zone upgrades.

As of last Wednesday, Rodriguez had not returned calls to The Rider.



NEW TEXAS VOTING RIGHTS

On Jan. 18, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What are your thoughts on the new Texas voting laws?" The results are shown below.



86% I disagree

14% I have no opinion on it



I have no opinion on it 67%

I disagree 25%

I agree 8%

Follow us on social media to participate @utrgvrider



Abbott is back at it again



Four months ago, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed controversial voting restrictions into law.



*** DANG IT, ABBOTT! WHAT THE HECK DID YOU DO NOW?!**

History just keeps repeating itself



Omar E. Zapata
SPORTS REPORTER

The 20th century in this country saw many people break barriers, change laws and strive for true equality and the pursuit of happiness, but we find ourselves in 2022 still struggling with one thing, voting.

On Sept. 5, 2021, Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law Senate Bill 1, which tightens state election laws and limits counties' ability to expand voting options. Some of the details of this bill are that 24-hour polling, drive-thru voting and early voting on Sundays were cut. A decrease in polling locations for counties and having just one mail-in ballot location are also part of the new law. This is due to the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election, in which then-President Donald Trump constantly talked about election fraud.

"Election integrity is now law in the state of Texas," Abbott said after signing the bill that hinders the opportunities to vote for many people across the state.

These cuts and restrictions to voting in Texas will ultimately hurt many groups that already face barriers to voting. For example, drive-thru voting and/or 24-hour polling sites made it accessible for working-class people who cannot find

time to take off from work and vote during the day. This is how voting laws and regulations are used to suppress people from participating in our democratic process.

These new restrictions to voting are similar to the tactics that lawmakers used in the past to limit the voting power for certain groups of people.

Poll taxes, which Texas did not get rid of until 1966, were used to create a barrier for the working class and poor, many of them Black and brown.

The poll tax left people back then with making difficult

off to vote when they need that money to survive.

No matter what Abbott says, this is a new form of voter suppression disguised as a fight against election fraud.

What is happening in Texas is happening in at least 18 other states that have enacted voting restrictions since the 2020 elections, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

On the federal level, voting rights bills have been proposed that would establish national standards for access to voting that aim to nullify new restrictions. Among some of

the standards are a minimum of 15 consecutive days of early voting, new automatic voter registration programs and making Election Day a national holiday.

As of last Wednesday, Senate Democrats made their case for the legislation to counter the voting restrictions happening across the country but failed to overcome Republican opposition to pass it with a split 50-50 vote.

It is ironic that the Republican senators, who were probably elected by having strong conservative values, such as limited government and being for the working-class citizens, voted against the legislation. This adds more restrictions to voting and, specifically, when it affects the working class, blue-collar type of individuals.

While the tactics of voter suppression have changed, the initial goal of them has not.

"No matter what Abbott says, this is a new form of voter suppression disguised as a fight against election fraud."

decisions on whether they could afford it and risk sacrificing basic needs.

The tax also discouraged many of those disenfranchised people from even wanting to participate in the voting process. Literacy tests were also used to disenfranchise voters in Texas until 1970, which affected many Spanish-speaking citizens, especially in the Southwest.

"No one who is eligible to vote will be denied the opportunity to vote," Abbott said.

But it is not about letting people vote. It is about not giving them a chance to vote.

No one wants to wait in line for hours on Election Day to vote after a full day of work. No one working paycheck to paycheck wants to take time

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com



8
DAYS LEFT TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PRIMARY ELECTION

Oficinas abiertas presenciales o en línea para estudiantes



Ailed Montague/THE RIDER

Ashley Rivera, estudiante de posgrado en administración de empresas, hace ejercicio en el UREC en el campus de Edinburg. El UREC ha reanudado su horario habitual de funcionamiento.

Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Aunque UTRGV cambió las clases a virtuales durante las primeras dos semanas de clases debido a “la aparición y rápida propagación de la variante Omicron”, los estudiantes aún podrán usar los recursos del campus.

Michael Foster, director asociado del Centro de Aprendizaje, describió los servicios que el centro ofrece a los estudiantes.

“Ofrecemos servicios de tutoría para cursos de pregrado [matemáticas, ciencias, artes liberales y negocios]”, dijo. “Ofrecemos tutoría individual y también ofrecemos aprendizaje colaborativo entre pares”.

Foster explicó que durante las dos primeras semanas sus servicios estarán en línea de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. “Pero después de las primeras dos semanas, pueden hacer una cita para reunirse cara a cara con un tutor”, dijo. “O simplemente pueden ir a nuestra

página web y ver un tutor en línea de inmediato”.

Para obtener más información o programar una cita, visite su sitio web. “El Centro de Aprendizaje está aquí para ayudar a los estudiantes”, dijo Foster. “Estaremos disponibles desde el primer día del semestre y ofreceremos todos nuestros servicios”.

Recreación Universitaria

Kimberly Rottet, directora de la recreación universitaria, dijo que el centro ha reanudado su horario habitual de funcionamiento desde que comenzaron las clases el 18 de enero.

“Así que van a cambiar, pero van a volver a la normalidad, digámoslo de esa manera”, dijo Rottet. “Cuando la clase no está en sesión o la universidad tiene un horario ligeramente modificado, tradicionalmente vamos a horarios modificados”.

El UREC está abierto de 8 a.m. a 9 p.m. de lunes a jueves, de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m. los viernes, y de medio día a las 5 p.m. los sábados. El Centro Recreativo de Texas Southmost College en Brownsville está abierto

de 7 a.m. a 9 p.m. de lunes a jueves, de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. los viernes, y de 11 a.m. a 3 p.m. los sábados, según su sitio web.

“Todavía estamos ofreciendo clases virtuales como clases de acondicionamiento físico”, dijo Rottet. “Si está interesado en el entrenamiento personal virtual, lo hemos facilitado durante el cierre real de cuando estábamos cerrados por COVID”.

Ella dijo que al usar la aplicación UTRGV University Recreation disponible en dispositivos Apple y Android, los estudiantes pueden mantenerse informados sobre el centro.

“Nos gusta decirnos a nosotros mismos y desafiar a nuestro personal

“Estamos aquí [y] todavía estamos tratando de hacer todo lo que hacemos”.

--Kimberly Rottet
directora de la recreación universitaria

para asegurarnos de que somos el gimnasio más limpio en el Valle [del Río Grande]”, dijo Rottet. “Estamos aquí [y] todavía estamos tratando de hacer todo lo que hacemos”.

Centro de Asesoramiento

Christopher Albert, director del Centro de Consejería de UTRGV, dijo que el centro ofrece sus servicios a los estudiantes en forma presencial

y en línea.

“Ayudamos a los estudiantes a hablar sobre sus emociones y a aprender habilidades de afrontamiento para ayudarlos a mejorar su vida y mejorar su experiencia como estudiante [en] UTRGV”, dijo Albert.

Dijo que los estudiantes tienen la opción de programar una cita en línea o en persona.

Los estudiantes pueden llamar a la oficina del centro en Edinburg al 665-2574 o en Brownsville al 882-3897. También pueden enviar un correo electrónico a counseling@utrgv.edu. El centro está ubicado en el University Center 109 en el campus de Edinburg y en Student Union 2.10 en el campus de Brownsville.

Albert dijo que otro recurso que tienen los estudiantes es la Línea de Crisis de Vaqueros (665-5555).

“Nuestra oficina está abierta de 8 a 5 de lunes a viernes”, dijo. “Pero tenemos la Línea de Crisis de Vaqueros, que es 24/7. Los estudiantes pueden acceder a él para hablar con alguien y superar una dificultad”.

Albert dijo que el Centro de

Consejería trata de hacer que los servicios sean lo más accesibles posible tanto en persona como en línea.

U Central

Vanessa Maldonado, directora del Centro de Servicios Estudiantiles, dijo que el centro ayuda a los estudiantes con una variedad de problemas de inscripción.

“Entonces, algunos de los recursos que ofrecemos son prácticamente el área frontal para la oficina de registro, para ayuda financiera, para admisiones y para la [oficina] de tesorería”, dijo. “Entonces, cualquier tipo de pregunta o problema que pueda tener sobre su cuenta, cualquier cosa relacionada con la inscripción”.

U Central está ubicada en el edificio de Servicios Estudiantiles en el campus de Edinburg y en el Main Building 1.100 en el campus de Brownsville.

A partir de hoy, U Central volverá a su horario habitual de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. lunes y miércoles a viernes. El martes está abierto de 8 a.m. a 6 p.m.

Para obtener más información, visite su sitio web o envíe un correo electrónico a ucentral@utrgv.edu.

Biblioteca Universitaria

Joel Chirinos, jefe de servicios de investigación e instrucción de la Biblioteca Universitaria, dijo que la biblioteca ofrece una variedad de recursos para estudiantes y profesores.

“Tenemos servicios de investigación, tenemos libros de texto, servicios de asequibilidad de libros de texto”, dijo Chirinos. Agregó que los estudiantes pueden revisar una lista de cursos marcados por el

profesor como un Curso de Materiales a Costo Cero visitando su sitio web. “Tenemos acceso a laboratorios de computación [y] acceso a recursos de medios. Vamos a ofrecer durante todo el semestre una variedad de diferentes clases y talleres que estarán dirigidos tanto a nivel de estudiante como a nivel de facultad”.

La biblioteca está abierta de 8 a.m. a 10 p.m. de lunes a viernes y de mediodía a las 10 p.m. los domingos, en los campus de Brownsville y Edinburg, y de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m. de lunes a viernes, y de 1 p.m. a 8 p.m. los domingos, en el campus de Harlingen.

“Estamos pidiendo a todos que se cuiden, que cuiden al personal cuando entren”, dijo Chirinos. “En el sentido de, ya sabes, practicar el distanciamiento social”.

Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web de la biblioteca.

Servicios de Estacionamiento

Pablo Aguilar, director de Servicios de Estacionamiento, dijo que el departamento está abierto de 7:30 a.m. a 5:30 p.m. de lunes a jueves y de 7:30 a.m. a 5 p.m. los viernes en ambos campus.

La oficina está ubicada en las Oficinas de Policía y Estacionamiento y Transporte, Sala 135, en el campus de Edinburg y en Vaquero Plaza-A, Sala 1.101A, en el campus de Brownsville.

Para obtener más información, envíe un correo electrónico a parking@utrgv.edu o visite su sitio web.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) advises the university president on the allocation of the student services fee in accordance with Texas Education Code Sec. 54.5043

SFAC will begin review of Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposals

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Friday, February 4, 2022 | 1:00-4:30P.M.
- Friday, February 11, 2022 | 1:00-4:30P.M.
- Friday, February 18, 2022 | 1:00-4:30P.M.
- Friday, February 25, 2022 | 1:00-4:30P.M.
- Friday, March 4, 2022 | 1:00-4:30P.M.

All meetings will be online. Please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at dos@utrgv.edu or (956) 665-2260 to RSVP and/or request accommodations.

For more information, visit www.utrgv.edu/sfac

Connecting through nature

Kaitlyn Polvado
A&E EDITOR

The Patron of the Arts series resumes with three free-of-charge, in-person performances, beginning with a piano concert by Professor Kenneth Saxon at 7 p.m. Saturday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg.

The opening performance by Saxon will contain music that was inspired by nature, such as Beethoven/Liszt's "Pastoral" Symphony, Béla Bartok's "Out of Doors" Suite, Oliver Messiaen's "Catalogue D'Oiseaux" and Simeon Roncal's Bolivian Cuecas.

Saxon said he chose the music because in times like these, when people can feel isolated, it is important to be reminded of what connects us: nature.

"The idea of the recital is to display that both music and nature are both gratifying and fulfilling things for us as humans," he said. "So, it was important for this recital to have a very pro-nature theme."

Billboard-charting saxophonist Derek Brown will perform BEATBoX SAX as part of the Patron of the Arts Distinguished Artist Series at 3 p.m. Jan. 30 in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Derek has performed solo concerts across the United States and over 25

countries, according to the biography on his website.

Previously the director of jazz studies at Abilene Christian University for six years, Derek received his bachelor's degree in music performance from Hope College in 2006 and his master's in jazz studies at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music in 2008, according to his website.

Mark Ramírez, associate director of the School of Music and an associate professor of percussion, is also performing in the upcoming Patron performances.

Ramírez's recital will take place at 7 p.m. Jan. 31 in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg. The concert will consist of post-modern electronic jazz percussion compositions and a few original compositions. Accompanying him will be Josiah Boornazian, an assistant professor of saxophone, and Marco Schirripa, assistant professor of percussion.

Ramírez said the performances are a way to bring people together.

"[At times like these], it's very easy to feel disconnected and we all want to feel as if we are connected in some way," he said. "There's a big separation between everyone because we're seeing each other through computer screens. It's important for us to have this in-person connection, while being safe."



COURTESY PHOTOS

The School of Music resumes its Patron of the Arts Series for the Spring 2022 term with free in-person performances Jan. 29 through 31. Shown (from left) are Josiah Boornazian, an assistant professor of saxophone; Mark Ramírez, associate director of the School of Music and an associate professor of percussion; and Marco Schirripa, an assistant professor of percussion.

According to the Patron of the Arts website, safety precautions are being put in place in order to ensure the safety of everyone who comes to see a show. Concertgoers are encouraged to use facial coverings and to keep a social distance. Digital programs will also be available to minimize physical contact.

Schirripa said the excitement outweighs the nerves when returning to the stage and being one of the first performers for the Spring 2022 season of the Patron series.

"With COVID-19 being so prevalent within the last couple years, performances have almost completely

come to a halt," he said. "Within the past year, performances have begun again and I am so excited to return to the stage in front of a [live] audience."

Saxon emphasized the importance of art performances and exhibitions like Patron of the Arts.

"I hope that the people that do come and hear the concert will come away with it enriched by this idea that things, such as music and nature that most people take for granted, are fundamentally important to us and should be celebrated," he said. "We should enjoy them, preserve them and keep them in our lives."

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-Though you may be going through some losses, it is important to remember that the fight is not over and you will take the win. It is OK to accept the help of others and release some of the weight off your shoulders. You will find the security you need soon enough and be able to move forward within yourself.

Leo-Patience is calling your name and you need to start listening. Take time out for yourself and let time do its thing. The answers will come to you. Delays may set you back but there is improvement way ahead of you. Just be patient.

Sagittarius-A situation is coming to an end and you may be unhappy about it but right around the corner, your happiness awaits you. However, you need to decide what is better for you and stop being indecisive. A happy celebration will reveal itself afterward.

Libra-Feeling unattached to yourself is not always a bad thing. Sometimes, going through these phases helps you uncover bits and pieces of your soul and leads you closer to yourself than expected. Do not worry. Soon enough, you will be on top of the situation and find your way out of it. After all, the

wheel of fortune is waiting for you and you will be granted what you have been wishing for.

Gemini-The moment you have been waiting for is finally here. You are beginning to feel your power and are standing up for what you believe in. Positivity is radiating out of you and it is important to remember all the good things you are capable of doing. Be who you are meant to be and do not let anything or anyone change that.

Aquarius-Stop thinking about what could go wrong and start doing what you want. Reach inside your heart and decide for yourself. The universe is reminding you to have patience and it is testing you to see how long you are willing to wait. But do not be fooled. Your time is coming sooner than expected and you will feel complete.

Cancer-With the sun and the moon right at your side, you have many things going on and do not know whether to go left or right. Insecurity has been on your mind lately and it is OK to be emotional about it. Release what is within and then move forward. Make sure to take care of yourself first and remember the strength within.

Scorpio-Take those extra steps and keep moving to the top. The world is granting your wishes and you

are reciprocating. There are so many plans you have for yourself and now is the time to do them.

Pisces-Lately, you have been feeling tied down to yourself or a situation and there is no way out of it. It is important to remember what you desire and what is important to you. Soon, you will reconcile with an old friend and the news he or she has will bring peace.

Taurus-This week, you are taking charge. After all, you have been putting in the hard work, and now it is time the universe repays you. New opportunities are becoming available and you are being put in the spotlight. This is your chance to take your life in a better direction.

Virgo-There is always a rainbow after every storm and your rainbow is near. The frustrations and trouble you have been going through are coming to an end. Everything you have been through was all meant to shape you and now you are ready for your next chapter.

Capricorn-You have finally come to your senses and have decided to stop letting people take advantage of you. Make time to take care of yourself and prioritize self-care. Take walks, clear your mind, grab a bite and rewind yourself.

Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz



SUDOKU

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

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

SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

7 P.M. WEDNESDAY VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
(CONFERENCE, HOME)

7 P.M. SATURDAY VS. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
(CONFERENCE, HOME)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

6 P.M. MONDAY VS. SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
(CONFERENCE, HOME)

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

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

MEN'S TENNIS

10 A.M. SATURDAY VS. RICE UNIVERSITY
(AWAY)

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY VS. ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
(AWAY)

2 P.M. SUNDAY VS. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO
(AWAY)

WOMEN'S TENNIS

10 A.M. AND 2 P.M. SATURDAY VS. WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
(HOME)

TRACK AND FIELD

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY HOUSTON G5 & SUPER 22 INVITATIONAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Athlete of the Week: KaCee Kyle

Midway through the season, UTRGV Women's Basketball freshman guard KaCee Kyle is averaging 5.4 points, 1.9 assists and 1.7 rebounds per game. The communication studies major's season-high came against Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Dec. 14, when she tallied 14 points, played all 40 minutes and made four three-pointers. A native of Greenwood Village, Colorado, Kyle graduated from Cherry Creek High School. She helped her team win the 5A state championship in 2019 and was a two-time All-State team honoree.

Q: Are you into astrology and what is your sign?

VISIT UTRGVRIDER.COM TO READ THE FULL Q&A WITH KACEE KYLE



Ailed Montague/THE RIDER

KaCee Kyle (center), a freshman guard for the UTRGV Women's Basketball Team, chats with graduate forward Taylor Muff (left) and sophomore guard Jena Williams during practice last Wednesday in the UTRGV Fieldhouse in Edinburg.

PLAYING FOR EVERY POINT



Ailed Montague/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women's Tennis Team starts its season against Weatherford College at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus.

Omar E. Zapata THE RIDER

The UTRGV Women's Tennis Team is ready to ace its way into the spring season after strengthening its mental and physical game during the fall.

The Vaqueras open the season with a doubleheader against Weatherford College starting at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Orville I. Cox Tennis Center in Edinburg.

Head coach West Nott told The Rider that every match is big but the team is excited for the first match of the season.

"This is what we do every day," Nott said. "So, to get out there and compete and train and, you know, measure ourselves against the other teams. So, yeah, we're really looking forward to it."

The head coach, who started with UTRGV in Fall 2019, said it is good to finally have a full year of tennis to build rapport within the team and become consistent day to day.

During the fall, the Vaqueras competed in four tournaments: two Islander Open tournaments at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Javelina Invitational at Texas A&M-Kingsville and the Texas State Play Day at Texas State University.

"I'm really proud of the work they've put in," Nott said. "Just, you know, talking about all the things we've been trying to practice over the years, and I think it's finally starting to

come together."

Maturity is something he wanted the team to focus on since day one of the fall semester.

"We want the good emotions, the positive ones ... especially in a stressful moment," Nott said. "So, we're trying to do that every day in practice, and then, hopefully, when the pressure comes in the real matches, we're able to handle it."

Senior Ana Plasita describes herself as an emotional player but has worked on her mental game last fall to better handle it.

"If I don't react at all, it's not good for me," Plasita said. "But also, if I react too much, that's also not good for me. So, somewhere in the middle ... that's good."

Another senior, Alicia Thal, said she also worked on the mental components of her game last fall.

"I got tougher at, like, focusing on the very next point instead of the big picture," Thal said. "Just to enjoy the journey and, like, compete for every single point. So, yeah, in the tournaments that paid off."

Nott said all of his players have improved their mentality.

"I mean, we've had a few injuries, but I think from a mental standpoint, like, we're really solid right now," he said. "And so, that gives me a lot of confidence that we're gonna, hopefully, do some good things in the spring."

The second focus of the team was getting fit in the

gym in preparation for the spring season.

Senior Katarina Sasaroga, All-Western Athletic Conference Honorable Mention, said she is nervous, in a good way, and wants her last year to be her best year.

Having some injuries here and there, Sasaroga said she and the team have been working out a lot in the weight room on conditioning and it has prepared them for what is coming.

"I saw everybody getting stronger," she said. "And, like, with that came, like, a lot of confidence. We played, like, a lot of drills and a lot of obviously boring stuff but it pays off."

All-WAC Honorable Mention sophomore Lea Karren said giving it her all for every match and playing good players has given the team confidence to play teams they struggled against last year.

"I had some really tough matches in the fall," Karren said. "So, I feel it helped me build my confidence and get ready for the spring. And the team, I think we're all so much stronger and we have a good chemistry between all of the girls."

After the home doubleheader, the team has 12 matches in February. The stretch kicks off at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and ends at home against Texas A&M University Kingsville.

The Vaqueras start conference play March 19 at Sam Houston State University.

Thal encourages UTRGV students to come out and support them for their home opener.

"We're a fun team with lots of energy, so we want to hear you out there in the stands," she said.

The WAC Tournament starts April 22 in Beaumont.

"I mean, last year, you know, we got to the semifinals of the WAC and that was fun to be in the mix there," Nott said. "And we just want to see if we can match that or do better. I think the conference is more competitive moving forward. So yeah, it's definitely going to be tough."

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COMMON

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