

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL



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ganan cuarto
lugar en
competencia**

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MONEY JAB

UTRGV offers COVID-19 booster incentive Cameron County asks residents to report at-home test results



Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

UTRGV reported 112 new COVID-19 cases between Jan. 14 and 20, 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 112 were 27 students, 74 staff and 11 faculty members.

UTRGV updates the number of cases reported for campus individuals weekly through the Confirmed Cases Dashboard. The university COVID-19

Response Team provides the numbers on the website.

[VISIT UTRGV.EDU/COMMITMENT
TO VIEW THE
COVID-19 DASHBOARD](https://www.utrgv.edu/commitment-to-view-the-covid-19-dashboard)

Arney said eight of the 27 students

were quarantined in on-campus isolation housing the week of Jan. 14 to 20.

In an email sent Jan. 21, UTRGV announced a \$100

incentive for students who receive their booster shot.

In order to qualify for the incentive, students must:

- receive the booster by April 8,
- update the UTRGV Vaccine Portal with the date they received the booster
- and upload their updated

See **COVID**, Page 2

An evening with Common

Award-winning actor and artist to visit UTRGV

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

Award-winning actor, artist and activist

Common will be the next guest of the UTRGV Distinguished Speaker Series at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the university Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg.

The Distinguished Speaker Series is hosted by the Student Activities office and is in its 18th season, according to Cindy Mata-Vasquez, UTRGV's director of Student Activities.

"One of the good things about this event is that he will be in person," Mata-Vasquez said. "So, he is the first in-person speaker we've had since March 2020 at the Edinburg campus, but we will also be able to offer a livestream."

While the event is open to the community, the university offers priority seating to UTRGV students, faculty and staff.

"As long as you have your student ID or staff ID, we'll definitely let you in for the UTRGV line," Mata-Vasquez said. "We are expecting doors to open at 7 p.m. ... Hopefully, we fill up with that line, but if [we] still have space, we'll open up the community line at 7:15 p.m."

Student Activities is excited to "kick off" the semester with the world-renowned

See **COMMON**, Page 3



Common
PHOTO COURTESY
DURIMEL

Grewal turns to new projects

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

On Jan. 18, the Office of the President announced that Parwinder Grewal, UTRGV's executive vice president for research, graduate studies and new program development, has decided to step down from his position due to personal reasons.

Grewal will serve as the special assistant to the president through Aug. 31, according to an email sent to the campus community. Afterward, he will return to a

tenured faculty position in the College of Sciences.

"He joined UTRGV in 2015 as the inaugural dean of the College of Sciences and has held his current position since April 2018," according to the email.

In an interview with The Rider, Grewal said he came to this decision during the pandemic.

"This position has been very rewarding, but it had lots of activities, many different units that I was overseeing, and I wanted to, kind of, focus more on a few things," he said.

"They will take a lot more of my time, so I decided to let [President Guy] Bailey know that I would like to step away from this position, but focus on these other things."

As executive vice president, Grewal's responsibilities were to oversee the Office of Research Administration, Graduate College, Online Programs, Global Engagement, the Office of Sustainability, Libraries, Continuing Education, Research Centers and Institutes and provide

See **GREWAL**, Page 3



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

In his new role as special assistant to the president, Parwinder Grewal will focus on sustainable agriculture and rural advancement programs, development of the Center for Urban Ecology at Quinta Mazatlan and improving undergraduate STEM education.

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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WACKY WEB POLL

A STORE WHERE EVERY ITEM IS FREE OR A RESTAURANT WHERE EVERY DISH IS CALORIE FREE?

-- 94%

Free item store

-- 6%

Calorie free restaurant

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
Voter Registration Drive
The **Civic Engagement Alliance** will conduct a **voter registration drive** from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. The drive will be held in **celebration of the last day to register to vote**. There will be music and free food.
Gospel Fellowship
Christians at RGV will hold a **gospel fellowship** from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Student Academic Center 1.103 on the Edinburg campus.
Tuesday
Distinguished Speaker
The **Distinguished Speaker Series** will host **Common**, an Oscar-, Golden Globe-, Emmy- and Grammy-award winning artist, actor and activist, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Performing Arts Complex B 1.121 on the Edinburg campus. To RSVP, visit V Link.
Art Exhibit Opens
The **RGV X Art For Change** art show will open with a reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the first floor of the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The exhibit focuses on cultural

and environmental sustainability. The event is hosted by the **Center for Latin American Arts** and the **School of Art and Design**.
Fraternity, Sorority Kickoff
Fraternity and Sorority Life and the **Center for Student Involvement** will kick off the semester from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. There will be **free prizes** and an opportunity to **get involved with fraternities and sororities**.
Lunar New Year Event
The **Campus Activities Board** and **Student Union** will host a **Lunar New Year celebration** from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus and from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. There will be **food and many activities**. Students can RSVP on V Link.
Lunar New Year Celebration
International Admissions and Student Services will host activities in celebration of the **Lunar New Year**: a painting class from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and a Grab-and-Go Lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, both in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus; and a Chinese Mandarin class

from 3:30 to 4:10 p.m. Wednesday via Zoom. To join, use meeting ID: 424 500 2494.
Wednesday
Student Involvement Fair
The Center for Student Involvement will host an **Involvement Fair** from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the Student Union Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday in the Main Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Departments and student organizations will hold a **tabling session** in an effort to communicate with students about the benefits and opportunities that the university and student organizations have to offer. There will be **free food and promotional items**.
Fraternity, Sorority Game Night
The **Fraternity and Sorority Life** and **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **game night** from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus.
Thursday
Fraternity, Sorority Tabling
Students can gather **information about fraternities and sororities** on campus during the **information tabling** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.
--Compiled by Diana Alvarez-Tovar

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 24 and 26.

Jan. 24 3:50 p.m.: An officer responded to an off-campus traffic collision involving a university vehicle. An Edinburg Police officer generated the accident report and investigation. No injuries were reported, only property damage.
6:42 p.m.: A staff member reported a bag that contained a university iPad was stolen from his golf cart on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.
Jan. 26 7:58 a.m.: A staff member reported his vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot E-27 on the Edinburg campus. There was minor damage to the right back-quarter panel. The case is under investigation.
8:33 a.m.: An officer responded to the 1500 block of West Van Week

COVID
Continued from Page 1

vaccine card.
According to the UTRGV website, the money will be deposited into their bank account or sent by mail.
To receive a booster shot, members of the university community can request an appointment via the UTRGV Vaccine Portal or call UT Health RGV Student Health locations directly at 665-2511 for Edinburg and 882-3896 for Brownsville.
For instructions on how to make an appointment at a campus location, visit utrgv.edu/vaccine.
The university plans to provide UT Health RGV pop-up booster events.
For information and updates about future pop-up events, go to link.utrgv.edu/booster-incentive.
In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, COVID-19 cases continue to increase.
Hidalgo County reported an additional 2,070 cases between Jan. 20 and 27, raising its total to 130,248, according to its website.

The county reported 40 additional deaths between Jan. 20 and 27, raising its death toll to 3,600.
Cameron County reported an additional 6,388 cases between Jan. 20 and 26, raising its total to 66,493 cases.
The county reported 19 additional deaths between Jan. 20 and 26, raising the county's death toll to 2,060.
Esmeralda Guajardo, the health administrator for Cameron County, said the Omicron variant is the biggest factor in growing case numbers.
"Omicron is just so infectious," Guajardo said. "It's getting anyone regardless of vaccination status. So, automatically, that pretty much leads us back to square one."
Social activity and in-person gatherings over the holidays also play a possible role in the increase of numbers, she said.
"[There are] a lot of barbecues, a lot of parties, people getting together," Guajardo said. "So, anytime that happens, obviously, that's going to increase the

risk and increase the numbers."
She said the county started to report probable cases in addition to confirmed cases because "a lot of facilities" send in rapid testing results as opposed to PCR results.
"They're not sending off the PCR," Guajardo said. "It's, you know, 'You're symptomatic, you test positive with an antigen. We're going to assume that you're positive,' and it stays there. And, so, we were starting to see a huge increase in the number of antigens, [so,] we felt like it was time for us to start sharing those numbers."
She said 81.49% of people are fully vaccinated in Cameron County, and 99.99% are partially vaccinated.
"People question how [is it] possible that everyone would be partially vaccinated," Guajardo said. "People need to consider one: the numbers.

Street in Edinburg in reference to a two-vehicle minor traffic collision involving a university shuttle golf cart. Both affiliated operators reported no injuries, only minor damage to both vehicles.
11:05 a.m.: A student reported her identity was used without her consent to purchase a university parking permit. The case is under investigation.
--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

"The denominator that we're looking at in terms of population is based on the U.S. census. ... So, you have that factor that that number is off a bit. ... Even though it's off, I'm very confident about our vaccination rates, that they're higher."
Cameron County Public Health officials are asking that individuals report their at-home test results, she said.
"My concern is that data [is] not going to be reflected in our [reports]," Guajardo said. "And, so, we're asking the public just to report it, just so that we can share that information with the public because we don't want [people] to let their guard down."
Residents of Cameron County can report both negative and positive test results at Coronavirus - Cameron County Public Health.

Student nurses to meet today

Ailed Montague/THE RIDER
The Student Nurse Organization will conduct its first meeting of the semester at 5:30 p.m. today via Zoom. To request membership, look for the organization on V Link. SNO officers are (front row, from left) Samantha Lopez, treasurer; Victoria Barrios, president; and Reanna Garces, vice president. Back row: Stefanie Teyer, resource chair; Eileen Marroquin, historian; Jessica Hernandez, fundraising chair; Gladys Sanchez, sergeant at arms; and Vaannya Ortega, secretary.

Perseverance is the key to success

UTRGV Cheer Team places at nationals

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

The UTRGV Cheer Team placed fourth in the Small Co-Ed Game Division at the Universal Cheerleaders Association College Cheerleading National Championship on Jan. 14. The competition took place at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, and was televised on ESPN. The UCA College National Championship is the most prestigious college cheerleading championship in the country, according to its website.

The team competed against 19 other universities. Only 10 universities made it to the final round of the division.

“UCA college nationals, it’s really a competition for all collegiate chapters of cheerleading--dance, you name it, pump squads to go out and compete,” said Cindy Mata-Vasquez, director of Student Activities. “So, at a national level, we get to see schools like Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, Texas, all these different schools from all across the nation to compete.”

Mata-Vasquez said it is a good opportunity to see where your university stands when it comes to the spirit program.

Lora Solis, head cheer and mascot coach for the Spirit Program, described how the team had to overcome different obstacles to get to nationals.

“We did not have a program from March 2020 [and] a lot

of people do not know this,” Solis said. “We finished our 2020 season in March and we did not start back up till August 2021.”

She said the team did not train or recruit for a long time, but caught up last semester, including cheering at games and being ready for UTRGV Madness.

“I was proud of us,” said Karyna Salinas, a cheer member and criminal justice junior. “There was that little part of me that knew we could do more, or knew we could get a higher place. But for what we practiced and how long we had, I think it was really good.”

Mata-Vasquez said the goal for nationals was to see where they stand as a team.

“The last time that we went to the national competition, UTRGV place second,” she said. “This was right before the pandemic. We wanted to at least place to see where we were.”

Mata-Vasquez said it was amazing that even though they had a new team, they were able to make it into the top five.

“We were able to see, like, ‘OK, how can we improve? How can we do better?’” she said. “And I think it will give our younger members something to want to work towards next year. Hopefully, next year, we can go back and come home with, you know, a medal, whether it’s third, second or first.”

Cheer co-captain and graduate student in nursing Jaylynn Wimberly said her experience at nationals was emotional.

“Definitely the love, the family, the energy that you feel when you get there,” Wimberly said. “It’s amazing just being in that arena with all those teams and knowing how hard you worked to be there.”

She said with this being her last year, doing her bit for the team was emotional.

Dance member Isabella Brunetti, a dance and business sophomore, also competed at nationals.

“The experience I had going to nationals, like watching both cheer and dance, was so humbling,” Brunetti said. “It made me more hungry to want to come back and, like, work harder to just be better.”

She said she is excited to work hard in the offseason to get the results that they deserve.

Mata-Vasquez described the differences between UTRGV and the other universities that competed.

“The *ganas* (desire) to want to be there,” she said about the UTRGV Cheer Team. “They really showed unity. They showed a united front. They showed that they deserve to be there just like anybody else.”

She praised the team’s athleticism.

“I’m a former athlete ... myself, so I know the adrenaline that students feel,” Mata-Vasquez said. “But being there with them. Being backstage, just feeling their energy, just being in the moment with them. I mean, my adrenaline was pumping, my blood was rushing, and I definitely was cheering for them. So I would



COURTESY UTRGV SPIRIT PROGRAM

First-year Spirit Program member and exercise science sophomore Briana Garcia (left) and fourth-year Spirit Program member and dance education senior Victoria Griffin (right) hold up second year Spirit Program member and kinesiology junior Alexandra Hinojosa (top) on Jan. 14 during the UCA College National Championship at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

say exhilarating. I commend them for doing what they do. They’re tremendous student athletes. And seeing the athleticism that goes into it is amazing.”

Cheer co-captain and English graduate student Lorissa Saenz said the team persevered through the difficulties and delays.

“We had so many difficulties leading up to the competition,” Saenz said. “We went out

to the world, coming from Texas all the way to Florida, still [with] the difficulty of COVID.”

Mata-Vasquez said the university will continue to support the cheer team.

“We are going to be cheering them to make sure that they are succeeding,” Mata-Vasquez said. “I think everyone should be proud of our Spirit Program and, you know, V’s up.”

GREWAL

Continued from Page 1

leadership for the development of all new programs at the university.

In his new position, he said his responsibilities are focusing on three major universitywide projects.

“My first project would be to expand our sustainable agriculture ... and rural advancement programs,” Grewal said. “The second project I will be working on is the development of the Center for Urban Ecology [at Quinta Mazatlan, a birding center in McAllen]. So, eventually, our goal is that that site will become a satellite campus for UTRGV.”

“And my third project is a project on institutional transformation by improving undergraduate STEM education. The key aspect of this is to implement a family-centered pedagogy. And if they succeed, if we succeed in this project, our student outcomes would be much higher; therefore, our graduation rates will go up.”

In the fall semester, he will return to the classroom as a tenured faculty member.

COMMON

Continued from Page 1

recording artist, according to Mata-Vasquez.

“We thought it’d be great after the Week of Welcome celebrations,” she said. “And we could have this amazing speaker not only kick off African American History Month, but also kind of kick off this semester for us on a good note.”

Common first became known for his

Before coming to UTRGV, Grewal was a faculty member for 16 years at the Ohio State University. After that, for about two and a half years, he was at the University of Tennessee Knoxville as a department head.

“I did some teaching there and mentored graduate and Ph.D. students. So, therefore, here in my faculty role, I will teach and my appointment will be, right now, I’m thinking, most likely either in biology or in [the School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.]”

There will be a national search to find another vice president for research, according to Grewal.

“So I want to tell you that the new position will be different than what my position was,” he said. “The new position will be very focused only on research. All these other responsibilities that I had will not be part of their position. So that division will, kind of, be broken down and the different parts will go to different divisions within the university.”

Grewal said he is thankful to have served UTRGV in these three highly visible roles: founding dean of the

conscious rap and later transitioned into acting.

“One of the things ... with this series is that it’s once-in-a-lifetime [opportunity],” Mata-Vasquez said. “So, I always tell our students, ‘you never know when you’re going to be in a room again with someone, you know, like Common.’”

The university hopes to create a sense of normalcy by holding the event in person.

College of Sciences, dean of the Graduate College and executive vice president.

“I have enjoyed every minute and it’s been so much fun working with so many good people,” he said.

Something he is looking forward to in his new position is the three big initiatives.

“They are all three transformative initiatives for UTRGV, you know,” Grewal said. “They will bring extension and they can also improve student education, retention and graduation rates.”

Patrick Gonzales, associate vice president for University Marketing & Communications, said he had mixed feelings when he found out Grewal was stepping down.

“It was a bittersweet reaction from me, because I hate to see someone of his caliber step down, but, you know, he did it for personal reasons,” Gonzales said. “We gotta respect that.”

He said Grewal has had a huge impact at UTRGV.

“When you think about Dr. Grewal’s impact, it’s from the very beginning,” Gonzales said. “He was our founding dean of the College of Sciences when

“The committee had wanted us to really bring that sense of normalcy back,” Mata-Vasquez said. “We know that the first two weeks of spring semester haven’t been what we all expected.

“But, you know, we had a little setback with everyone being virtual these first two weeks. So, being that we’re going to be back, this is our second day, really, back on campus with everybody. We do hope that

he first started in 2015 and then moved to the executive vice president role that he currently is leaving that oversaw research, graduate school and new program development. And, those are all three areas that saw significant growth and significant success under his leadership.”

Grewal was also the dean of the Graduate College from May 2018 to May 2021. Gonzales said Grewal took on the Graduate College when it was not flourishing.

“He made a quick and big turnaround,” he said. “The leadership he provided in bringing those students together to help increase the enrollment was remarkable. He’s been a great salvation on how the Graduate College grows from here on out.”

Gonzales’ message to Grewal is a thank you for everything he has done since the start of UTRGV.

“I have a sense of gratefulness for Dr. Grewal,” he said. “Again, because everything he’s been through, everything he’s given to UTRGV, from the very beginning to now. We have made great progress and he has played a big role in helping UTRGV get to the point where we are at.”

students not only feel that sense of normalcy, but see that things are returning to what they were.”

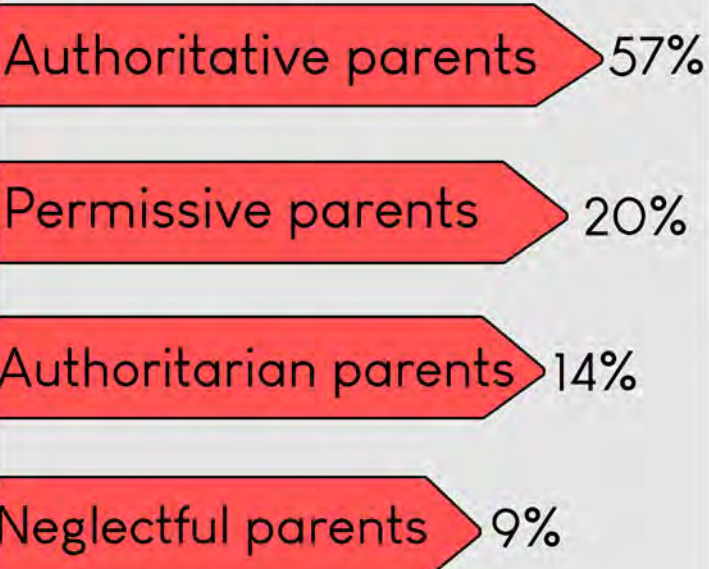
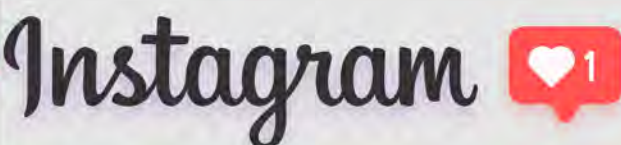
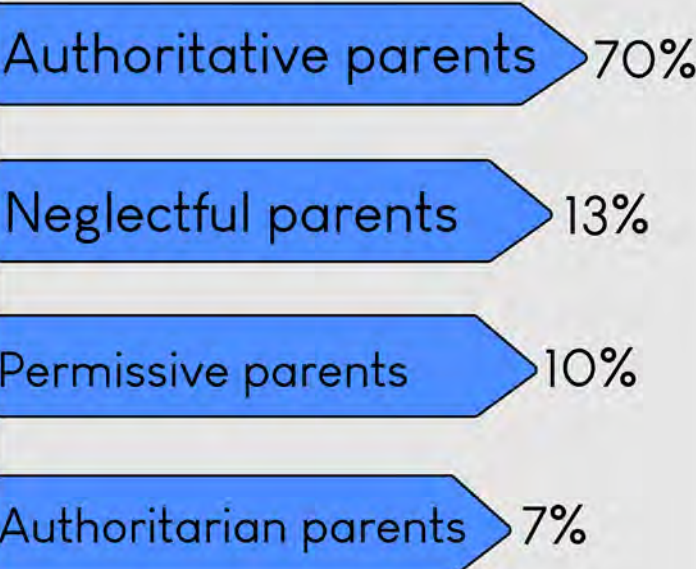
Next year, the university plans to offer more hybrid events that can be viewed in person or online.

Actress Lana Condor, best known from the movie trilogy on Netflix, “To All the Boys I Loved Before,” will be the third and final speaker in a virtual setting in March, she said.



PARENTING STYLES

On Jan. 24, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, “What type of parents did you have growing up?” The results are shown below.



Follow us on social media to participate @utrgvrider

Is it the parent or the child?



How were you raised?



Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER
Students from a high school I observe as a student teacher were asked

to compare Amy Tan’s short story “Two Kinds,” from her book “The Joy Luck Club” (G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1989) with different selections that share the central theme of parenting styles.

The story is about a tiger mom who demands excellence from her daughter, with different selections that share the central theme of parenting styles.

Tan argues that there are two kinds of daughters in the world: “those who are obedient and those who follow their own mind.”

Throughout the week, the students were divided into five groups and asked to read a different connecting text to later share with the class, otherwise known as the jigsaw method.

One group read Amy Chua’s “The Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother” (Penguin Books Publishing, 2011) a memoir about a Chinese mother who juxtaposes the parenting style of Chinese and Western parents.

In the reading, Chua discusses the controversy she faced from Western parents for her strict practices with her children, such as calling her kids “garbage” in Chinese for not meeting her academic standards. In the memoir, Chua recounts a time when she threw her children’s Mother’s Day card back at them because she said she did not believe they tried their best.

While it may seem extreme to some, a few students were able to identify with Chua and believed that she was right to throw away the card because she knew her children’s true potential and would not take anything less.

Based on my experience, this tiger mom, or helicopter parent, approach is something

that is synonymous with Hispanic parenting culture and is something many in the Rio Grande Valley experience.

I will never forget the time I was sitting at a roundtable with five other students for an intro to education course. As we introduced ourselves, we discovered that all of the students at the table, minus myself, were failed nursing majors. They all had the same reason for pursuing health care and that was that they were only studying nursing because it was what their Hispanic parents wanted.

Coming from a household where deciding on a major

“While Tan argues that there are only ‘two kinds’ of children, I believe there is a middle ground. However, for the sake of argument and my own curiosity, I wonder which style promotes the most success.”

and, really, all my decisions, were mine alone, I could not understand why it took my classmates so long to go against their parents’ wishes.

As I helped the students navigate through the readings, I found myself forced to reflect on my parents’ parenting styles and how their practices have shaped who I am today.

Growing up, I would often hear stories from my mother about how hard her father was on her and how much he expected of the family. My mother vowed to raise me to have an opinion and not be afraid of her, like she was of her father.

As a child, I recall always having a say in the clothes I wore, what I ate and even the way I played. My mother made sure I was heard and encouraged me to express myself in all the ways that a child can. The whole world was my playground.

As I got older and started school, I was labeled as a gifted and talented student. My mother would praise me for my creativity and loved when my teachers would recognize it as well. She took great pride

in my creativity because she said it was something she could not have because of her rigid upbringing.

While I never did badly in school, I was never No. 1, either. The responsibility of school was mine and mine alone, and I enjoyed that independence because it made me feel empowered.

Despite all my mom’s pride in me, I was never able to pass a single one of my AP tests, I scored average SAT and ACT scores, and when my senior year of high school rolled around, I only applied to one university.

I was disappointed in myself for a long time for not aiming higher and wondered if I had had a tiger mom, would I have passed the tests or had a different variety of schools to choose from? And if my mom was raised by someone like herself, would she be able to get in touch with her creativity? I am not sure.

As the week went on and the students began to further dissect the text, I wondered what kind of parenting style I would adopt?

Despite my mom’s attempts to raise me holistically, I still rebelled during my teens, a luxury she never had as a teenager for fear of the consequences. In retrospect, I had no reason to rebel. I was not oppressed in any way. Nothing in comparison to the strictness and lack of voice that my mom must have felt in her home growing up. If anyone should have rebelled, it should have been her.

While Tan argues that there are only “two kinds” of children, I believe there is a middle ground. However, for the sake of argument and my own curiosity, I wonder which style promotes the most success.

And so I ask, what kind of parents did you have growing up? Do you agree with the way you were raised? What parts of it do you disagree with? Do you think you are predestined to raise a child the way your parents raised you? And how will you parent your own children one day?

Porristas ganan cuarto lugar en competencia



CORTESÍA UTRGV SPIRIT PROGRAM

El Equipo de Porristas de UTRGV realiza una rutina el 14 de enero durante la competencia de la División de Juegos Mixtos Pequeños en el Campeonato Nacional de Porristas Universitarias de la Asociación Universal de Porristas en Walt Disney World Resort en Orlando, Florida. El equipo quedó en cuarto lugar y compitió contra otras 19 universidades. Solo 10 universidades llegaron a la ronda final de la división. De izquierda, Jaylynn Wimberly, Alexandra Hinojosa, la mascota de UTRGV y Victoria Griffin.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El equipo de porristas de UTRGV ocupó el cuarto lugar en la División de Juegos Mixtos Pequeños en el Campeonato Nacional de Porristas Universitarias de la Asociación Universal de Porristas el 14 de enero.

La competencia tuvo lugar en Walt Disney World Resort en Orlando, Florida, y fue televisada por ESPN. El Campeonato Nacional Universitario de la UCA es el campeonato universitario de porristas más prestigioso del país, según su sitio web.

El equipo compitió contra otras 19 universidades. Solo 10 universidades llegaron a la ronda final de la división.

“Ciudadanos universitarios de UCA, es realmente una competencia para todos los capítulos universitarios de porristas, baile, lo que sea, equipos de bombeo para salir y competir”, dijo Cindy Mata-Vasquez, directora de actividades estudiantiles. “Entonces, a nivel nacional, podemos ver escuelas como la Universidad Estatal de Oklahoma, la Universidad de Oklahoma, Texas, todas estas diferentes escuelas de todas las naciones para competir”.

Mata-Vásquez dijo que es una buena oportunidad para ver dónde se encuentra su universidad en lo que respecta al Programa de Espíritu.

Lora Solis, porrista principal y entrenadora de mascotas del Programa de Espíritu, describió cómo el equipo tuvo que superar diferentes obstáculos para llegar a las nacionales.

“No teníamos un programa desde marzo del 2020 [y] mucha gente no sabe esto”, dijo Solis. “Terminamos nuestra temporada del 2020 en marzo y no comenzamos de nuevo hasta agosto del 2021”.

Ella dijo que el equipo no entrenó ni reclutó durante mucho tiempo, pero se puso al día el semestre pasado, animando en los juegos y preparándose para UTRGV Madness.

“Estaba orgullosa de nosotros”, dijo Karyna Salinas, miembro de porristas y junior de justicia penal. “Había esa pequeña parte de mí que sabía que podíamos hacer más, o sabía que podíamos llegar a un lugar más alto. Pero por lo que practicamos y el tiempo que tuvimos, creo que fue realmente bueno”.

Mata-Vasquez dijo que el objetivo de los nacionales era ver donde se posicionan como equipo.

“La última vez que fuimos a la competencia nacional, UTRGV quedó en segundo lugar”, dijo. “Esto fue justo antes de la pandemia. Queríamos al menos un lugar para ver dónde estábamos”.

Mata-Vásquez dijo que era asombroso que a pesar de que tenían un nuevo equipo, pudieron llegar a estar entre los cinco primeros.

“Pudimos ver, como, ‘OK, ¿cómo podemos

mejorar? ¿Cómo podemos hacerlo mejor?”, dijo. “Y creo que les dará a nuestros miembros más jóvenes algo por lo que querrán trabajar el próximo año. Con suerte, el próximo año, podamos regresar y volver a casa con, ya sabes, una medalla, ya sea tercera, segunda o primera”.

La co-capitana de porristas y estudiante de posgrado en enfermería, Jaylynn Wimberly, dijo que su experiencia en los nacionales fue emotiva.

“Definitivamente el amor, la familia, la energía que sientes cuando llegas ahí”, dijo Wimberly. “Es increíble estar en esa arena con todos esos equipos y saber lo duro que trabajaste para estar allí”.

Ella dijo que siendo este su último año, poner de su parte en el equipo fue algo emocional.

La miembro de danza Isabella Brunetti, estudiante de segundo año de danza y negocios, también compitió en los nacionales.

“La experiencia que tuve yendo a las nacionales, como ver animar y bailar, fue muy humillante”, dijo Brunetti. “Me dio más hambre, querer volver y, como, trabajar más duro para ser mejor”.

Ella dijo que está emocionada de trabajar duro fuera de temporada para obtener los resultados que se merecen.

Mata-Vasquez describió las diferencias entre UTRGV y las otras universidades que compitieron.

“Las ganas de querer estar ahí”, dijo sobre el equipo de porristas de UTRGV. “Realmente mostraron unidad. Mostraron un frente unido. Demostraron que se merecen estar allí como cualquier otra persona”.

Ella elogió el atletismo del equipo.

“Soy un ex atleta... yo misma, así que sé la adrenalina que sienten los estudiantes”, dijo Mata-Vásquez. “Pero estar ahí con ellos. Estar detrás del escenario, simplemente sentir su energía, simplemente estar en el momento con ellos. Quiero decir, mi adrenalina estaba bombeando, mi sangre estaba acelerada y definitivamente los estaba animando. Así que diría estimulante. Los felicito por hacer lo que hacen. Son tremendos estudiantes atletas. Y ver el atletismo que conlleva es asombroso”.

Lorissa Saenz, la co-capitana de porristas y estudiante de posgrado de la licenciatura en inglés, dijo que el equipo perseveró a través de las dificultades y los retrasos.

“Tuvimos tantas dificultades antes de la competencia”, dijo Saenz. “Salimos al mundo, viniendo desde Texas hasta Florida, todavía [con] la dificultad de COVID”.

Mata-Vasquez dijo que la universidad seguirá apoyando al equipo de porristas.

“Vamos a animarlos para asegurarnos de que tengan éxito”, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Creo que todos deberían estar orgullosos de nuestro Programa de Espíritu y, ya sabes, V’s up”.

Una velada con Common, actor y artista galardonado de visita en universidad

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

El martes a las 7:30 p.m., el actor galardonado, artista y activista *Common* será el próximo invitado en la serie de Oradores Distinguidos de UTRGV en el Centro de Artes Escénicas del campus en Edinburg.

La serie de Oradores Distinguidos es organizada por la Oficina de Actividades Estudiantiles y actualmente se encuentra en su temporada número 18, de acuerdo a Cindy Mata-Vasquez, directora de Actividades Estudiantiles de UTRGV.

“Uno de los mejores aspectos de este evento es que será en persona”, dijo Mata-Vasquez, “Así que él será el primer orador que hemos tenido desde marzo del 2020 en el campus de Edinburg, aunque también vamos a ofrecer una transmisión en vivo”.

El evento está abierto para la comunidad, aunque solamente los estudiantes, el personal y profesorado de la universidad tienen prioridad para reservar lugares.

“Siempre y cuando tengan su identificación de estudiante o personal, definitivamente le permitiremos acceder al evento de UTRGV”, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Esperamos que las puertas se abran a las 7 p.m. Nos gustaría llenar el lugar con ese grupo, aunque si aún hay espacio abriremos a la comunidad a las 7:15 p.m.”

La Oficina de Actividades Estudiantiles está emocionado de iniciar el semestre con un artista mundialmente reconocido, dijo Mata-Vasquez.

“Pensamos que sería estupendo después de las celebraciones de la Semana de Bienvenida”, dijo Mata-

“... Y podemos presentar a este orador no solo para iniciar el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana, sino para también comenzar el semestre con una buena nota”.

--Cindy Mata-Vasquez
directora de Actividades Estudiantiles de UTRGV

Vasquez. “Y podemos presentar a este orador no solo para iniciar el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana, sino para también comenzar el semestre con una buena nota”.

Common primeramente saltó a la fama por su rap consciente y después hizo la transición a la actuación.

“Una de las cosas ... con estas series



FOTO DE CORTESÍA DURIMEL

El artista y actor Lonnie Rashid Lynn, mejor conocido por su nombre artístico *Common*, será el próximo Orador Distinguido en la serie de lectura a las 7:30 p.m. el martes en el Centro de Artes Escénicas 1.121, ubicado en el campus de Edinburg.

es que es [una oportunidad] única en la vida”, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Así que les digo a los estudiantes que nunca sabrán cuándo estarán en un mismo lugar que alguien como *Common*”.

La universidad espera crear una sensación de normalidad al realizar el evento en persona.

“El comité de verdad espera que regresemos esa sensación de normalidad”, dijo Mata-Vasquez. “Sabemos que las dos primeras semanas del semestre no han sido lo que todos esperábamos”.

“Pero como sabemos, tuvimos un pequeño imprevisto con todo siendo virtual estas primeras dos semanas, así que ahora que estamos en nuestro segundo día de regreso en el campus. Esperamos que los estudiantes no solamente recuperen su sentido de normalidad sino que también vean que las cosas regresan a lo que eran antes”.

El siguiente año la universidad planea ofrecer más eventos híbridos para que sean observados en persona o en línea. La actriz Lana Condor, mejor conocida por la trilogía de películas en Netflix “A todos los chicos de los que me enamoré” será la tercera y última oradora virtual en marzo”, dijo Mata-Vasquez.

--Traducido por Itzel Rivera

Mr. Amigo 2022



Citlalli Torres/FOTO RIDER

La Asociación Mr. Amigo anunció el jueves pasado a la actriz mexicana de teatro musical y televisión, Bianca Marroquin, que se desempeñará como Mr. Amigo durante la celebración de Charro Days de este año en Brownsville, programado del 19 al 27 de febrero. Durante el anuncio en el Centro ITEC de Texas Southmost College se muestran (desde la izquierda) Adela Garza, fideicomisaria de TSC; Ruben Herrera, presidente de la junta directiva de TSC; Agustín Angeles, diplomático del consulado de México en Brownsville; Yolanda Parra, cónsul general del Consulado General de los Estados Unidos en Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México; Juan Chapa, presidente de la Asociación Mr. Amigo; Trey Mendez, alcalde de Brownsville; Patricia Solís, presidente de Fiestas Mexicanas en Matamoros; y Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, rector de TSC.

'RGV X Art For Change'

Kaitlyn Polvado
A&E EDITOR

The Center for Latin American Arts will open “RGV X Art For Change,” a show focused on sustainability, at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

The center called on people across the Rio Grande Valley to contribute their art to display.

Katherine McAllen, an assistant professor of art history and director of the Center for Latin American Arts, said the exhibition focuses “on how our environment and culture is formed by the art we make, and bringing in different perspectives from the community is very important to see.”

The show was planned to begin at the same time as the unveiling of the Gloria Anzaldúa literary landmark since the exhibition was also created with the topic of border identity in mind; however, the unveiling has been postponed till April.

Keaton McKeever, an art graduate student and recipient of a UTRGV

Presidential Fellowship Research Grant, curated the exhibition in order to shed light on issues that spark up throughout the community.

“Arts and topics like border identity and sustainability aren’t separate ideas, but they coexist,” McKeever said. “With this exhibition, people are able to understand that they can see these topics through a new, creative light.”

In late March, CLAA will host an exhibition, “Uncovered Spaces,” which will feature the works of women and women identifying as LGBTQ+ artists at the International Museum of Art and Science in McAllen. The show will include artist roundtables and in which the community is encouraged to come and view the work, as well as receive feedback to endorse a mentoring relationship.

Raheleh Filsoofi, curator of the exhibition and an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University, said the IMAS exhibition was created using the initiative of a previous project, titled “FOLD: Art, Metaphor, and Practice,” in which the focus was to unfold connections between the



different artists there.

“Uncovered Spaces” was made in collaboration with Filsoofi and McAllen.

“The enhancement of community engagement and cooperation with local, regional, national and international artists and scholars outside of the Rio Grande Valley has high priority,” Filsoofi said. “My story, along with many others’ stories from here, gave me a

pivotal perspective on the political landscape of this country. The main concern is to make sure that the exhibition and its many events open a space through art which engages the community of artists and audiences and offers a critical re-thinking of current social and political issues.”

The CLAA updates information on exhibits and various projects on its website at www.utrgv.edu/claa/.

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-It is about time you realize your self-worth. Get rid of all bad energy and motivate yourself to do better and focus on yourself. This is your wake-up call so take advantage of it and start making your mark. A new path is now making its way toward you.

Leo-Time seems to be stuck in slow motion and you seem to be getting impatient but know that you are actually moving slow and steady. It is OK to tune into all situations before making a final decision. Sometimes laying low and making slow progress is better than being fast and irrational.

Sagittarius-Spirit wants you to know that what you are waiting for is coming. Stop feeling hopeless and start taking it easy. All that you are manifesting will reach you. What is meant to happen will happen. It is not worth dwelling on the unknown.

Libra-Many uncertainties have been on your mind lately, but it is important to focus on the real goal you want to achieve. You are being asked to hold on and not give up on your purpose as you are being tested by the universe. Do not worry, this is meant to show you how to fight for what you want.

Gemini-A relationship will begin to blossom or perhaps already has. This connection will show you more than you expected and you will flourish from it despite the outcome of it. Be yourself and remember to give the love you want to receive.

Aquarius-Time is of the essence and you need to decide your next move. You have had a lot of time to think yet have not acted upon anything. Keep in mind that no matter what you choose or whatever happens, you are always being guided by your angels.

Cancer-Your life is now becoming a routine and it is time to spice it up. Take control of life instead of letting life control you. Remember, our destiny is in our hands and we can shape it anyway we want it to be. Go out with friends and have fun. You need it.

Scorpio-An old connection is coming back into your life and offering you an opportunity at something you have been needing. However, it is important to be patient and to be aware of this offering before you jinx yourself out of it.

Pisces-Tough times are meant to shape us so do not lose sight of who you are. It could be a difficult process but with your love and affection it will get easier. Moments like these are the ones that stay with you forever. Stay strong and positive.

Taurus-Having fun is something we all need in life but having a little too much fun can be dangerous. Be careful who you surround yourself with and the places you go. Try to befriend people with goals and motivation and support each other to the end. This energy can transfer and help you figure yourself out.

Virgo-Self-care is at the top of your list and, although this is a good thing, it is OK to make time for other things. Remember your goals and when you want to achieve them. Once you have done so, find the balance between and everything will come full circle.

Capricorn-Looking out for yourself is a good thing, we need to keep ourselves in check at all times. Remember that energy well because soon it will be tested by the universe and you may let your guard down. Take charge and think about situations thoroughly before you act upon them.

SUDOKU

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

Last week’s puzzle answer key:

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

Cartoon-ish Hijinks by Ariael Ortiz



AQUATIC INVESTMENT

City of Pharr donates \$5K to UTRGV



--Compiled by Yamileth Rodriguez

Hernandez said of the many projects the city is working on, the natatorium and supporting UTRGV establishing



“We expect and we want [UTRGV] to be in all areas, including aquatics, to be the No. 1 in the nation,” the mayor said. “And we know it starts somewhere and we want to be there to get [UTRGV] going and be sure they get where they need to be by providing support and

"The timeline, assuming the board approval, we will hire a head swimming and diving coach in 2023," he said. "So, we'll make sure, obviously, this resource will be available to the new coach, but it will be used to benefit our student athletes."

"And you're truly going to make an impact, not only for the UTRGV students but also to our county and our Rio Grande Valley students that will be coming here for years to come. It's really exciting. It makes us feel nice and warm inside, the fact that we're making a difference for a lot of families."

--Ambrosio Hernandez
City of Pharr mayor

The \$26 million natatorium opened its doors last Saturday and Conque described it as incredible, with new technology, an Olympic/NCAA-size pool, diving boards, showers and

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
 2 p.m. Saturday vs.
 Abilene Christian University
 (Conference, HOME)

MEN'S BASKETBALL
 7 p.m. Wednesday vs.
 Lamar University
 (Conference, HOME)

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT
ABOUT BEING A DJ?

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